

Alert doorman aids police

East Coast men suspected of murdering gay SoCal man nabbed in the Castro.

page 12

MasterCard sees red

Credit card firm sues over Nader's Green ad.

page 14

**Love amidst genocide**

'Aimée & Jaguar,' true lesbian romance during WWII.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 34 • 24 August 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Barebacking, top to bottom, part 2

Break it down: Harm reduction

by Terry Beswick

In their recent publication, *Response to Updated Estimates of HIV Infection in San Francisco, 2000*, the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the AIDS Research Institute of the University of California, San Francisco noted that while some gay and bisexual men have "eliminated high-risk behavior from their lives," there are other men for whom "decisions about perceived risk are outweighed by their needs for identity, intimacy, pleasure, or other considerations. They know about risk, have made choices, and engage in behavior at the level of risk that they believe to be appropriate."

And still other men, notes the DPH/UCSF publication, have only recently started to have seen that runs a higher risk of transmitting HIV to themselves or their partner.

"This group makes situational decisions about risk behavior," says the document [see <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/ari/HIVEstimatesReport8900.pdf>]. "These decisions are based on their knowledge and understanding of HIV transmission, the perceived risk of the behavior in question, and the stated or presumed HIV status of their partner."

Included in the report is a new "11-point action plan," which the authors describe as an "opening salvo" to begin a dialogue on a new approach to HIV prevention in San Francisco.

But rather than attacking the whole concept of gay men practicing anal intercourse without condoms (barebacking), the plan takes a new approach of "harm reduction," in effect abandoning the philosophy that

page 18 ►

Ellen & Anne split

Heche hospitalized after bizarre incident by Ed Walsh

If anyone knows the truth behind the well-publicized drama of Anne Heche's "amicable" split from Ellen DeGeneres and Heche's subsequent hospitalization, they're not saying.

Heche parked her Toyota SUV near Highway 33 in rural Fresno County Saturday night, August 19, and walked about a mile along a dirt road to a house on Nebraska Avenue. She knocked on the door and was speaking incoherently. Police and an ambulance were called. Heche was taken to University Medical Center in Fresno where she was treated and released.

According to the *Fresno Bee* newspaper, law enforcement sources said Heche appeared to be under the influence of drugs and made statements that she may have taken ecstasy. The hospital would not officially release any information about the case. University Medical Center spokeswoman Mary Lisa Russell insisted the hospital never treated anyone named Anne Heche. The hospital's chief legal officer, Robert Ward, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Heche may have refused to give her name or registered under an alias.

Fresno County Sheriff's Lieutenant Merrill Wright confirmed the basic details of the Heche incident but said he couldn't release any other information because it was considered a medical, not criminal case. Wright said he could not confirm reports that Heche may have overdosed on ecstasy. A representative



Ellen DeGeneres, left, and Anne Heche at a 1998 appearance in San Francisco. The couple announced their breakup on Saturday, and Heche was later hospitalized

Jane Philomen Cleland

of the Fresno County Sheriff's Narcotics Division told the *B.A.R.* its investigators weren't asked to get involved in the case.

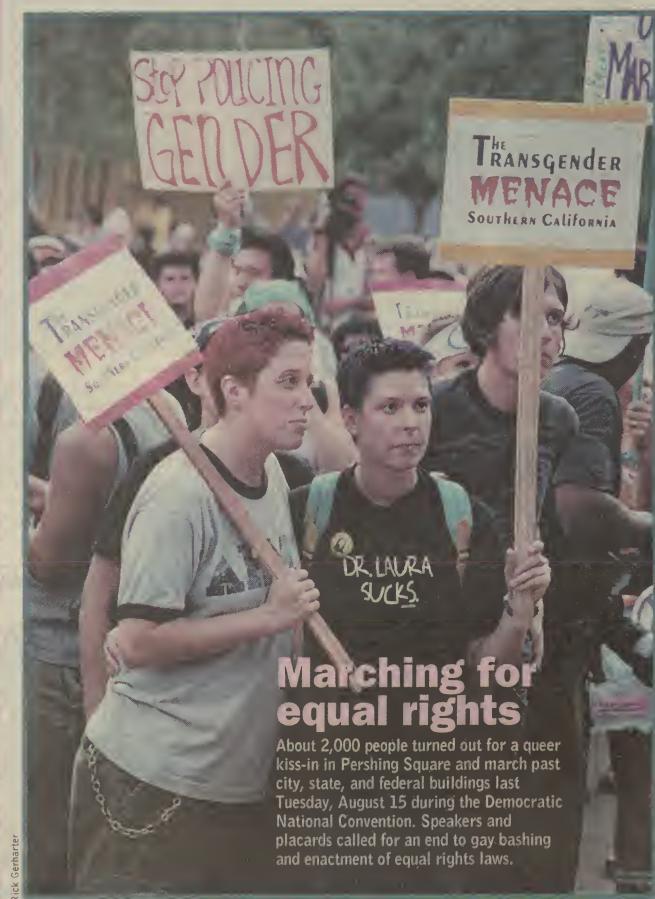
Aracelli Campiz told KSEE-TV that the last person she expected to show up at her door was her favorite actress.

"I couldn't believe it. I was just laughing...she was saying a lot of funny things, that's all," Campiz said. "She even put on a pair of my slippers and she made me put on a pair of slippers too."

page 21 ►

INSIDE

BAR Talk	46
Classifieds	24
GLAAD	10
Lavender Tube	39
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	44
Obituaries	21
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	42
Out There	30
OutRight	11
Personals	52
Sports Complex	22



Marching for equal rights

About 2,000 people turned out for a queer kiss-in in Pershing Square and march past city, state, and federal buildings last Tuesday, August 15 during the Democratic National Convention. Speakers and placards called for an end to gay bashing and enactment of equal rights laws.

District 5 supe candidate boosts gay rights at DNC

by Terry Beswick

No word yet on whether Juanita Owens saw a bump in the tracking polls after her speech at last week's Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

But when the only female candidate for supervisor in San Francisco's District 5 took the stage last Tuesday, August 15, her mind was not on the local race.

She was thinking about being one of the few out lesbians of color to address a national convention of either major political party. Democratic National Committee member Gloria Nieto, a Latina lesbian, also addressed the delegates, as did other openly gay people.

"I was proud and humbled that a lesbian of color was invited to speak at the Democratic convention," Owens said in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"That solidifies and it validates that we are an integral part of the fabric of this country," she said.

But with all the talk of "window dressing" at the Republican convention, what about the Democrats? Was the candidate invited to speak because she is a lesbian of color?

"That's a good question, and I thought about that," acknowledged Owens. "No, I

page 23 ►



Dr. Juanita Owens

Rick Gerhardt

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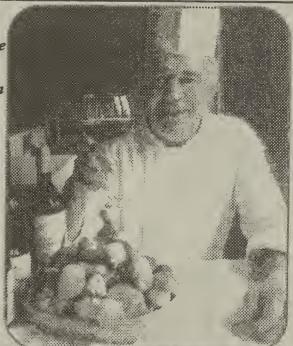
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Walking for memories



Rick Gerharter

Nearly 40 walkers took part in the annual Unity Walk in Hayward last Sunday, August 20. The three-hour walk passed several gay bars in the East Bay city and raised \$3,289 for the In Memory Foundation, a direct service organization for people living with AIDS. The sponsoring groups included the Alameda County Leather Corps, the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, and the Imperial Star Empire, whose coronation event, "Hellfire and Brimstone, An Evening in the Villain's Lair" will be held Saturday, September 2 at 6 p.m. at Centennial Hall in Hayward. For more information about the coronation and related events, e-mail ise@starmail.com or check out ise.impcourt.org. The In Memory Foundation may be reached at (510) 582-7189.

Man bashed in Daly City

by Katie Szymanski

A few months ago, Community United Against Violence reported that San Francisco's gentrification was a huge factor in the increase in violence during anti-gay attacks. As more gays are pushed out of the city, according to CUAV, they find themselves in neighborhoods not used to — and certainly not as friendly with — gay people.

One Bay Area man can unfortunately attest to that; Daly City resident Anthony Pino earlier this month was the victim of a vicious assault that is under investigation as a hate crime by the San Mateo District Attorney's office.

On August 5, Pino and a friend entered a Daly City hamburger stop for some food and were immediately picked out in the crowd by a group of five young men.

"They were saying things to my friend like, 'Hey faggot, why are you looking at me like that?'" Pino told the Bay Area Reporter. "Then everything happened really fast."

Pino cannot remember everything about the incident, but he was apparently attacked by all five men, as captured by the restaurant's video surveillance camera. He was kicked and punched in the head, sometimes with a glass bottle.

"I actually thought I got shot," said Pino. "There was pain and then a lot of blood gushing out."

Pino incurred a cranial skull

fracture that nearly turned deadly when a small pocket of air was found to have entered his head.

"I'm okay. I'm functional. I have to go back for more medical evaluations, and my memory's not great, but I'm getting it back," said Pino of his injuries.

According to the Daly City Police Department, five suspects have been arrested for the brutal beating. Pino has already been subpoenaed for the first phase of the justice process and says he is nervous about testifying against the suspects.

"I want to relocate," said Pino. "I'm not trying to run but I'm very scared of staying where I am now, where they could find me again." ▼

Arrest made in Los Gatos anti-gay attack

by Ed Walsh

Police in the South Bay arrested one man and are looking for three others after an alleged anti-gay hate crime in downtown Los Gatos last Friday, August 18.

University of California, Santa Barbara student Peter Ellsworth, 21, allegedly attacked a man outside a hair salon on North Santa Cruz Avenue at about 2 a.m., police said. A group of four men, including Ellsworth, allegedly called the victim and his brother "faggots" after overhearing them discuss the victim's career plans after graduating from cosmetology school.

Ellsworth got into a verbal altercation with the 21-year-old victim,

before physically attacking him, police said. The man suffered minor injuries to his jaw and knees. Police said he turned down an offer to be taken to the hospital. His name was not released.

Police arrested Ellsworth on misdemeanor battery and hate crime charges. He was booked into the Santa Clara County jail and released later that morning.

Ellsworth is from Los Altos. He didn't respond to the Bay Area Reporter's phone and e-mail messages, but he told the San Francisco Examiner that he never attacked either of the brothers and never called them "faggots." Ellsworth said he was defending himself after being attacked by the brothers.

Los Gatos-Monte Sereno po-

lice Captain Alana Forrest told the B.A.R. that Ellsworth's claim that he was defending himself after being chased by the brothers is not reflected in the police report on the incident.

Police are looking for the three other men who were with Ellsworth. Forrest said they are described only as white males between 20 and 25 years old.

Forrest said hate crimes are very rare in Los Gatos. She said last week's case was the only anti-gay hate crime that she could recall. Forrest said the case has been turned over to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office for prosecution.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno police at (408) 354-8600. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Where is your rage?

HIV discrimination beyond gay community

by Katie Szymanski

Almost 20 years ago, members of the queer community battled the system as their brothers became targets of discrimination such as proposed AIDS quarantines and mandatory testing. Within the last few years — when names reporting and criminalization earned the HIV spotlight — lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people have consistently opposed such measures out of concerns for confidentiality and the scary concept of giving the government the power to assign blame to HIV transmission. So as the Ryan White CARE Act approaches the final stages of reauthorization approval in Congress, it is fair to ask the question: where are we now? Within weeks we may have an AIDS funding system that is conditional upon the mandatory testing of newborns and their mothers, a condition that applies all the discrimination we once fought against toward a new population with whom we now seem unconcerned.

Will predominantly gay groups remain silent on the issue, or even support the measure, in order to acquire their portion of federal AIDS dollars?

Two weeks ago, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel issued a statement that opposed adoption of the "financial incentives for mandatory testing" clause in the reauthorization

act, introduced by Representative Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) to amend the CARE Act to include these conditions. ALRP was joined by several minority and women's groups and a handful of AIDS organizations such as Project Inform, but the coalition "had a hard time making this provision a priority during negotiations," according to Eileen Hansen, former policy director for ALRP.

Many AIDS advocates — most notably those lobbyists in Washington, D.C. that worked out this "compromise" with Coburn — seem fine with mandatory testing so long as the discrimination does not affect the gay community. As it stands, the CARE Act reauthorization legislation has two versions — one in the House, and one in the Senate. Coburn's House version contains the mandatory testing provision, while the Senate version does not. Congress is expected to revisit the issue after Labor Day in order to pass the most agreeable form of the bill. And with little gay opposition to the testing provision, mandatory testing could well be on its way to becoming a condition of federal funding.

Locally, our own community, for the most part, has not vehemently opposed the mandatory testing provision.

Michael Petrelis, who has worked with Coburn on AIDS service organization accountability

issues, told the *Bay Area Reporter* last week that he in fact supported mandatory newborn testing.

"The answer is yes. Y-E-S," said Petrelis, who noted that the incidence of pediatric AIDS cases in San Francisco was small.

Petrelis last week accused Hansen of using ALRP CARE Act money for lobbying against the bill and for her own campaign for San Francisco supervisor. Coburn jumped on the bandwagon, sending statements around the country that questioned whether ALRP even existed because the organization's phones were down on the day it moved its offices across town. And when Hansen resigned from ALRP last week to pursue her candidacy, Petrelis said it reeked of scandal. ALRP has already sent its financial records to Coburn for investigation and the group noted that Hansen's departure was planned long before Coburn's accusations. Furthermore, Hansen will ask for a public apology for Coburn's bogus crusade.

ACT UP/San Francisco, usually identified as a Petrelis ally, made a point to call the B.A.R. last week to denounce Petrelis's position on mandatory testing.

"To say this is not our community's concern is just ignorant," Michael Bellefontaine of ACT UP/SF told the B.A.R. "With all the false positives [test results], and all the discrimination around HIV, we should be able to talk

page 12 ►

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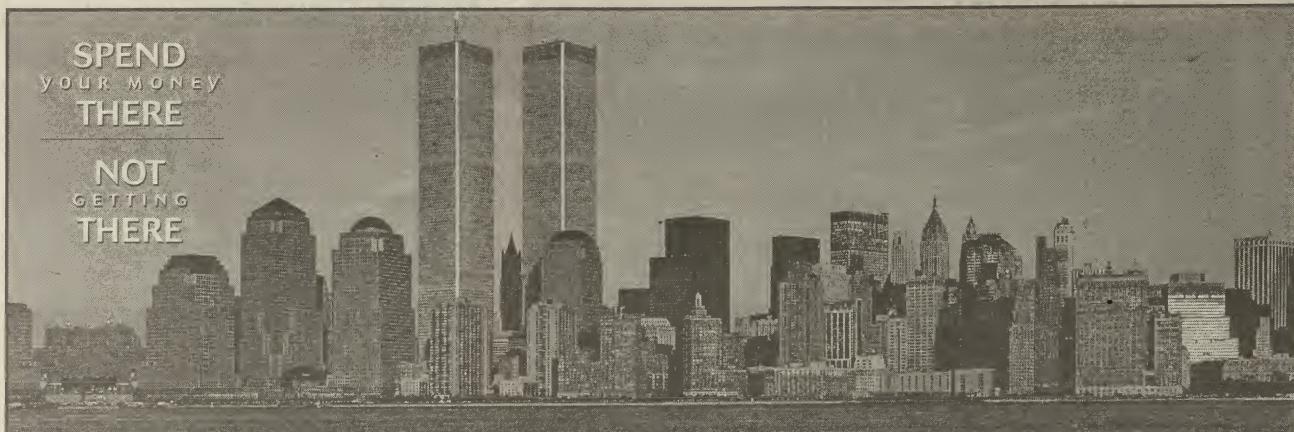
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Supes tackle rent hikes for city doctors

by Katie Szymanski

When, oh when, will it end? It's bad enough as a residential renter to realize that the limited number of available single-person apartments could only be afforded by those with high incomes. But commercial rents have also soared more than 50 percent in the last year alone, driving out not only many of the city's nonprofits but a number of for-profit businesses as well. As Supervisor Gavin Newsom remarked at a Board of Supervisors committee hearing Tuesday, August 22, "We are becoming a one-dimensional city."

"I'm stuck," said Newsom of the city's powerlessness over commercial rents. "I don't like this."

Tuesday's hearing before the Small Business Economic Vitality and Consumer Services Committee, called by Supervisor Alicia Beccerril, was the first to deal with the dot-com invasion as it affects doctors' practices, one of the rare for-profit businesses with the nonprofit bent of public service.

At issue was 450 Sutter Street, a building with an historical purpose to house doctors, dentists, and other medical practitioners. For 40 years, rents have remained steady at the building, with the exception of occasional 5 percent increases. Then, in June, the building's long-term tenants received 30-day notices informing them of

a choice between extreme rate hikes or eviction. One doctor at an HIV/AIDS practice saw the monthly rent go from \$2,000 to \$20,000, according to Beccerril.

But these figures brought no tears to the eyes of those on hand to represent the building's owner.

"Forty-six percent of those doctors drive luxury cars," was one argument used by the owner's representative. "This is not the type of situation where the board should be reaching out, as it has to nonprofits."

Beccerril reminded the money-focused debaters that the conversation needed to go beyond the named doctors and dentists.

"When you're talking about physicians you're also talking about patients," said Beccerril. "The elderly, people with AIDS ... many who rely on these services provided."

The side representing the building's owner then took the compassionate angle, arguing that they had tried for years to get doctors into those spaces but that health care reform had decreased that renters' pool. The building is in desperate need of seismic retrofit and other renovations, they said, and the owner simply cannot afford to maintain a 9 percent vacancy rate in today's economy, where dot-coms can come in and

pay virtually any rent on the market. Furthermore, the owner had negotiated with several tenants who opted for a reduced office space at a more affordable rent.

"We are a part of this community, and committed to working with the doctors to keep them in the building," was the summary given by the owner's side.

The supervisors on hand for the hearing didn't buy it for a second, but there was little they could do.

Supervisor Mark Leno, noting that for 40 years rents remained the same and then suddenly "increased exponentially," said he would buy the argument for the necessity of increased rents "if you then followed that with, 'We don't want the doctors there.'"

But state law prohibits the city from setting limits on commercial rents. And other than restricting the free market and regretting it later or buying the building and subsidizing the spaces – something unaffordable for every such situation before them – the Board of Supervisors could only caution the building's owner that they expected a solution would be reached.

"If the landlord is not as committed as is suggested," warned Newsom at the hearing's close, "then we will take the next step and re-open these hearings." ▼

HIV drug resistance forum Thursday

by Cynthia Laird

People living with HIV/AIDS – particularly those living in the East Bay – are invited to a forum on drug resistance Thursday, August 31 at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland.

The presenter will be Dr. Michelle Roland, of the University of California, San Francisco's Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital. Roland is expected to address several topics of interest to those living with HIV/AIDS. Among them are failing therapies, "bad" lab results, or whether to test for genotype or phenotype.

The forum is presented by Oakland Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. Light food will be provided and child care is available for those who need it, though they are asked to call Kaiser one week in advance. The forum is free and open to the public, but Kaiser does ask that people RSVP; giving your name is not required, just the number of people in your party and whether you will require child care.

The forum takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, 280 West MacArthur Boulevard, in the 12th floor conference room C. ▼

To RSVP, call John Melichar at (510) 596-6848 or e-mail john.melichar@kp.org.

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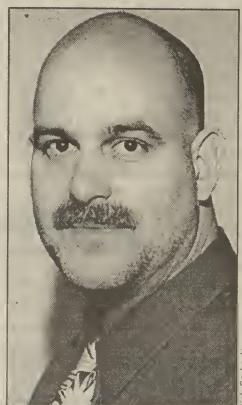
by Katie Szymanski

It's hard to believe a year has passed since we were first privy to the pink light "necklace" that adorned Oakland's Lake Merritt in honor of East Bay Pride. Yet the holiday across the bridge is here again, and so are the lights, kicking off the fourth annual East Bay Pride in luminescent style.

"The Lighting of the Lake" — now a declared yearly event for the last Saturday of August — will take place this Saturday, August 26 at Lake Merritt, beginning with a concert at 4 p.m. and culminating with the 8 p.m. "enlightening ceremony" that brightens the water and declares the Pride party official.

East Bay Pride President and CEO Pete King said that this year's event should be an enjoyable one, especially after the success of last year's Pride, which also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Mayor Jerry Brown and other officials are expected to attend.

The public is encouraged to arrive during the concert, a performance showcase of local talent, in order to sponsor a light in memory or in honor of someone they love. For a \$10 donation you can be a part of pink light history;



East Bay Pride's Pete King

sponsorship opportunities are from 4 to 6 p.m. Also at the lake, special water taxi and gondola rides will be available. For details, call (510) 663-6603. Performing artists during the enlightening ceremony and concert include the newly formed Oakland/East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, Colors, the Lesbian Choral Ensemble, Sweet Chocolate, Irena Rivkin and Making Waves, Torri Fix, Kristi Martel, Bombengne, Frances Adayo, and Beyond Basic. Then, when the

lights go up around the lake, it signifies the start of a weeklong festival and celebration that includes sporting events, brunches, parties, and of course, the Oakland Gay Mardi Gras.

This year's Mardi Gras will be on Sunday, September 3, from noon until 7 p.m. at Preservation Park, Clay and 12th streets. For a \$5 admission fee, attendees can enjoy five stages of music and performance, a variety of ethnic foods, and entertainment for the entire family, however your clan is defined. The alternative stage will feature queer rock, metal, new wave, retro, punk, and garage. The Preservation Park Stage will have queer jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, gospel, reggae, and folk; look for performers Thunder Pussy, Veronica Black, Sistah Boom, and others. The dance stage will showcase the area's best deejays, while the Pride Nation stage will feature, live from the Internet, queer deejays from Palm Springs. Finally, the gender-bender lounge will feature dragsters, tranny folks, and genderfuckers in a non-stop "salad bowl show" inside Niles Hall.

For more information on the week's events for adults, queer youth, and kids of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents, call (510) 663-3980. ▼

Post 448 hosts dinner fundraiser

by Katie Szymanski

It's that time of year again to carbo-load for a good cause. The Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion is hosting its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser this Saturday, August 26.

The event, held in room 207 of the War Memorial Building at 401 Van Ness Avenue, begins at 6 p.m. with a social cocktail hour. Dinner, provided by Original Joe's Restaurant, is served at 7 p.m. Raffle prizes and a cash drawing are promised, and the guest speaker of the evening will be Supervisor Le-

land Yee. Admission to the dinner is \$15, and raffle tickets go for a cheap buck a piece once inside.

The Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion is the only post whose membership is predominantly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered honorably discharged veterans who have successfully served in the United States Armed Forces during a period when the country was at war. Organized in 1984, the group engages in activist efforts for all veterans and is particularly engaged in the fight to end the homophobic policies of the United States military.

To attend Saturday's fundraiser, simply show up; guests are wel-

come to pay at the door. For more information on the organization, visit www.post448.org. ▼

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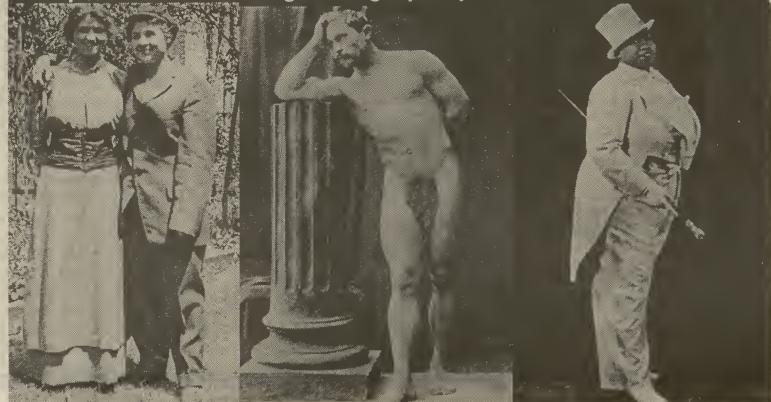
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His own man

Vice President Al Gore came away a winner from last week's Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, where he accepted his party's nomination for president and Senator Joseph Lieberman, the first Jewish American — ever — named to a major party ticket, accepted the vice presidential nomination.

There were three defining moments from last Thursday, when Gore took to the podium to deliver his acceptance speech. Immediately, Gore amazed delegates in the Staples Center and viewers at home when he planted a wet kiss on the lips of his wife, Tipper. The Kiss, as it's come to be called by the political talking heads, has been analyzed to death — was it a genuine sign of love and caring for his partner of 30 years, or was it a calculated move? Certainly, Gore could not have forgotten where he was — on national television — but to us, the kiss seemed real. And, as one pundit said Tuesday night, in those few seconds, Gore firmly declared his independence from President Bill Clinton. If nothing else, The Kiss signaled that Gore is a faithful husband, which can't be said for the man from Hope.

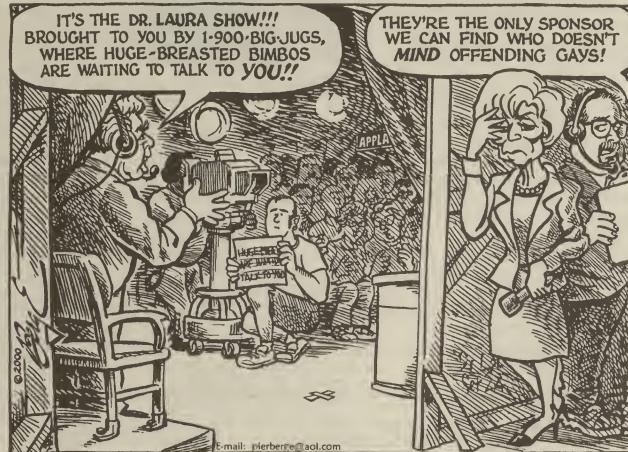
The second defining moment for Gore came when he said, "I am my own man . . ." The convention crowd went wild; this is what they've been waiting months to hear. Those few words said more than the symbolic "passing of the torch" ceremony that the Clintons and Gores held in Michigan last Tuesday, and showed us that the vice president is finally starting to emerge from the extremely long shadow of Bill Clinton.

The third important moment in Gore's speech came when he told the audience, "I will never let you down." That was another subtle reference to Clinton, whose personal escapades did let the country down, but whose presidential duties continue to enjoy high approval ratings.

So far, the polls show that in the days since the convention, Gore has picked up all the ground he had lost earlier this year to his Republican rival, George W. Bush. Bush is now on the defensive, remaining uncommitted about the upcoming presidential debates even while promising to debate Gore. We're told he's negotiating over the format. What's that about? Is Bush trying to get a debate layout that wouldn't burden him with any of those pesky surprises that sometimes occur when a candidate is asked a question he wasn't expecting? Bush, naturally, would rather face one panelist as op-

posed to several, and probably doesn't want questions from the audience.

Of note to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, Gore specifically mentioned passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the need for continued HIV/AIDS care during his speech and recognized the parents of slain gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard. Bush mentioned neither topic during his acceptance speech earlier this month, and it's clear to us that when it comes to tolerance and fighting for all people, as both parties claim, one candidate, Al Gore, is above the other. ▼



Think globally, act locally

by Marc Salomon

My how things change over a decade! But the more things change, the more they stay the same. Once upon a time, there was but a single ACT UP in the city — ACT UP San Francisco — formed shortly before I moved here. When I joined, the Sixth International AIDS Conference was right around the corner, and we prepared frantically for what turned out to be one of local grassroots street activism's finest hours.

As a result of those actions during that summer week in 1990, ACT/UP SF more than doubled in size and then the real trouble began. What had been a progressive coalition of diverse individuals and groups committed to ending the AIDS crisis in all communities, was about to be torn apart by a few selfish affluent gay white men wishing to narrow our focus to getting drugs into the veins of affluent gay white men like themselves.

But those of us who view our activism as a vehicle for giving voice to the voiceless and empowering the powerless resisted the institutionalizing moves that the newcomers made to restrict the focus of ACT/UP/SF to meeting to their interpretation of what AIDS activism should be and little else.

To make a long story short the focus on treatment folks decided to split from ACT/UP/SF and that began the treatment-focused ACT/UP/Golden Gate which recently became Survive Aids.

Now I read a recent guest opinion where Jeff Sheehy, now a member of Survive AIDS, is lamenting the paucity of "big picture" cross-cultural AIDS activism now that he's actually jetted off to South Africa, where the poorer and blacker have suffered proportionally to the comforts we enjoyed since long before HIV. Perhaps had ACT/UP/GG not ignored the broader issues besides using PWAs as free human guinea pigs for drug company R&D, there might have been grassroots activist pressure put on the governments of the industrialized world to address AIDS in a manner other than subsidizing the creation of new markets for

wealthy drug corporations.

And to further complicate the matter by introducing the notion of intellectual and financial conflict of interest, Sheehy is listed as "the deputy director of communications for the UCSF AIDS Research Institute," which means that he is being paid to defend the perspectives of an AIDS institution that has, like all institutions, its own agenda above and beyond the basic science which is to ensure its continued operation and growth which can entail defending its patrons.

As an HIV skeptic, because the proposition that: "HIV and only HIV causes AIDS and AIDS is only caused by HIV," has not been proven to my scientific standards, I am confused about Sheehy's glib dismissal of consensual barebacking amongst prevention workers. From what I remember, the science behind the HIV thesis asserted that positive men must stay safer because they would pose a public health risk by encouraging more virulent mutations were they to bareback.

Like much prevention "science," maintaining intellectual continuity takes a back seat in the rush to secure additional funding for a lucrative African AIDS safari if not a witch doctor hunt. If many of us have learned from observation that the prevention crowd sings for their supper by masquerading misleading information as authoritative, then the next logical step is to analyze the degree to which they, themselves adhere to the admonitions they sanctimoniously heap on gay men.

But the prevention well is poisoned, the effectiveness of the prevention message diluted, and most gay men are not going to believe it when the prevention professionals cry wolf next time. And we are seeing this on the ground in increased rates of less safe behavior. But I still hold that gay men should use condoms proportional to their degree of promiscuity, because whether HIV is present or not, the more serum of more men — the sum total of all flora and fauna — taken into one's body stresses out the immune system.

And finally, Sheehy claims that since the stock market has risen astronomically of recent, we should have no problem scaring up \$4-6 billion to cut new infections in half. Uh, Jeff, last time I checked every system on which the city of San Francisco depends for its day to day operations was falling apart due to the fiscal and political malfeasance of your Democratic monopoly. The Health Department, Muni, Housing Authority, Ethics Commission, and even the water and sewer systems are all in varying states of crisis and worse.

I ask treatment advocates who have had a decade of access to "the table" after our pioneering work that for the first time pulled back the curtain on the secretive public health and pharmaceutical firms, why not leverage that access to encourage drug companies to become a few of those thousand points of light and sell the meds cheaper to the Third World, and while they're at it, lower the prices for we North Americans?

And in the face of contradictory evidence bathed in demands for continued, higher funding, we must make a choice. Do we continue to fund prevention that ostensibly has failed if we are seeing treble increases in funding or do we revisit funding the epidemiologists that are clearly cooking the data.

While we must think globally, we must first act locally. How can Sheehy advocate that we allocate scarce resources to pay drug companies to send drugs and condoms abroad before we meet those very needs of our own right here at home? Does it matter that we're being asked to sacrifice the basics at home in order to further the particular scientific theses of Sheehy's employers? This is neither an isolationist nor a denialist argument, rather a prioritization on how we can resolve our own crises so that we may be stronger to address the crises of others. ▼

Guest Opinion

Marc Salomon is a candidate for supervisor in District 6.

LETTERS

What mattered?

When it came to the body of Curtis Oliver Jr. what mattered? Not the details of his life but the details of his death. If even half the attention had been paid to the details of his life, perhaps he would still be alive. An ethic of care would focus on the fact that Curtis died with someone at his side instead of alone in the park. An ethic of care exacts the truth about the pervasive drug problem in our neighborhood and community – alcohol, meth, heroin, crack. This pandemic, in all its manifestations, is one we avoid by scapegoating and blaming.

Tawnee Walling stayed up all night caring for this young man. She kept vigil with him through the night hours. She called for help. She found his family so they could say goodbye. These are the details that matter.

Through the worst of the AIDS years, we rarely lost hope. The sadness was overwhelming at times, but the grief was somehow shouldered on the ethic of care demonstrated by our community. We knew what it was to be involved in the lives and bodies of those among us sick and dying, and together we struggled against a society who placed us, our bodies, outside the general public. In those days, the only crime was not to care.

So soon do we forget. With little hesitation we have re-entered this society. We are now the ones who are saying that some bodies matter and some do not.

MCC-SF Board of Directors: Pam Ballo, Colleen Connery, Jim Gatteau, Emily Hoyer, Diane Kalliam, Daniel Leifker, Rev. Jim Mitalski, Rev. G. Penny Nixon, Linton Stables, Wolf Sterling, Yew-Hoe Tan, Ruel Walker

Letter like Swiss cheese

It was disturbing to read the letter from Peter Keating [*"Jeers to Badlands,"* August 17]. Having lived in the community for over 20 years and knowing Mr. Les Natali for much of that time, I can attest that the statements attributed to him are not conceivable.

Mr. Natali has done a great deal for our community and has always had the best interest of our neighborhood, in which he lives, at heart. His support of many community-based organizations, often anonymous, has been consistent for all the years I have known him. I am certain he takes great pride in the Badlands, which he has created and provided an excellent venue for all members of our community to enjoy.

Lastly, if should be noted that Mr. Natali does not now, nor has he ever, done his banking with Cal Fed. Perhaps Mr. Keating was mistaken.

Bill Hershon
San Francisco

More holes than a fly swatter

I am writing in response to the letter from Peter Keating in your August 17 letters section. Somehow Mr. Keating's letter (if there really is such a person) didn't have a ring of truth to it. So, I did a little checking and with that and the firsthand knowledge I have of Mr. Natali of the Badlands, here's what I'd like to tell you: The story has more holes in it than a fly swatter. This man supposedly heard Les's conversation outside the bar, later heard his conversation inside the bar, and then a week later was in Cal Fed to overhear Les saying "fucking queens stand in line every night" when asked how business was going at the new bar. What an amazing coincidence that one person was present for all three conversations! First of all, anyone who knows Les knows that he never speaks that way. Secondly, and this is the biggest hole in the story, Les does not bank at Cal Fed. He banks elsewhere and has for years. Before you allow one of your readers to slander a man who has brought new business, new jobs, and new life into the gay community, you should do a little checking. At the very least you owe Mr. Natali an apology. And Mr. "Keating" needs to do a little bitterness check.

J. Christian
San Francisco

Thoughts on hate crime law

Thanks very much for Katie Szymanski's story on the arguments against hate crimes law [*"Fighting for justice – not hate crimes laws,"* August 3]. Hate crime legislation is now one of the top priorities in LGBT politics, and the article brought out cogent critical ideas that have otherwise been poorly represented in the media. With very deep appreciation for the article, I want to bring up two issues that I think were not addressed very well by either the "pro" or "con" voices cited by Szymanski.

First is the role of intent as a factor in defining and punishing crime. The article cites opponents of hate crime law who point out the (mis)use of intent by, e.g., prosecutors who have charged HIV-positive people with attempted murder for simple assaults. No citation in the article, however, recognized that intent is a widely accepted standard for the most serious crime of all, namely murder. We distinguish by intent

among first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and manslaughter, where the victims are just as dead in all three cases. Here, intent clearly matters to us, the survivors. We want to understand both the psychological and the social roots of killing, and to punish accordingly (even, or especially, when we oppose the death penalty).

Second is the failure of hate crime law to address all the victims of hate. Opponents of hate crime law point out that writing sexual orientation and sexual identity into the law would still omit other victimized groups, such as the homeless. All too true. But this is an effective argument against hate crime law as such? This argument may be essentially the same as the arguments that civil rights laws were either unnecessary or unjust when they dealt "only" with racial discrimination.

Both these issues are united by a valid reluctance to add more categories of punishment to a legal system that is biased against stigmatized groups, and often inept. That said, a hate-based assault may be just as distinct from an "ordinary" assault as murder is from manslaughter. If we decide not to recognize hate motivation in criminal law, the arguments will need to be more thorough and exact than they seem to be so far. I hope the B.A.R. will continue to explore the issue.

Jeff Ruda
San Francisco

Don't force Mary Cheney into spotlight

Your editorial regarding the need for Mary Cheney to speak out is understandable but a more nuanced, understanding position is necessary [*"Speak to us, Mary Cheney,"* August 10]. There is, no doubt, a discrepancy between the Republican Party's official position on homosexuality and Mary Cheney's views. Certainly, the aspiring president and vice president should be asked about Mary and whether or not they believe the government should have a right to take away any child she may have and if businesses should have the right to fire her because they find out if she is a lesbian. We look up to them to be role models and, Clinton notwithstanding, fight for what they believe in, leading society toward the path they feel is right one.

Mary, however, should not be forced into the media spotlight. This is not a radical notion, for we hardly ever hear from Chelsea Clinton. She was never asked to talk about Clinton's "inappropriate relationship" with Monica. That was rightly viewed as a family matter. Gays and the press should be more understanding if Mary chooses not to speak out in public. She may decide that public statements might lead to discord with her parents and perhaps her wife (yes, I believe that she has a right to a wife), may not want their relationship examined in public. She is not going to lead the country. Her father might, if, God forbid, Bush is elected and loses the capacity to serve.

John P. Pavlec
Lakewood, New Jersey

Lick Bush

This is regarding Matt Wilson's letter to the editor [August 10] to vote for Ralph Nader. It is laudable to vote for your conscious, principles, and integrity, and hope that your vote will dent the ever-powerful two-party system. However, reality dictates that Wayne Friday's suggestion is true: a vote for Nader is a waste, albeit righteous, and indirectly favors George W. Bush. Politics is hard.

The perennial cliché of voting for the lesser of two evils in this election is ludicrous and frightening. Remember, Mr. Wilson, whoever is elected president will appoint about three Supreme Court justices who will decide what direction, progressively or regressively, our country will evolve. Do digest this intensely. Al Gore is a well suited helmsman to steer us in calm political paths. The LGBT, pro-choice, and minority communities will benefit. So, lick Bush.

Art Alcantar
San Francisco

Dems don't deserve gay support

The Al Gore-Joe Lieberman ticket does not deserve gay and lesbian support. The Democrat Party approach to gay rights is largely one of words without substance, except of course, for the damaging Bill Clinton legacy, which includes "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and the Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA, which Joe Lieberman voted for in the Senate, codifies gay and lesbian second-class citizenship by denying gays and lesbians the fundamental right of civil marriage. Thanks to Clinton, Gore, Lieberman and their ilk, sexual minorities are worse off now than before Clinton was elected.

Many gays and lesbians think they have to vote Democrat in November because they have nowhere else to go. But this is simply not true. Gay men and lesbians can feel good about supporting a great candidate in this year's election: Ralph Nader. Nader and

next page ▶

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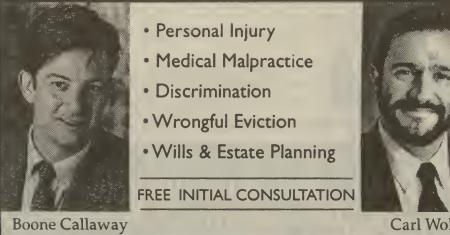
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the Green Party fully support equal rights and responsibilities for sexual minorities including civil marriage. Nader has repeatedly stated this on national television and the Green Party platform includes language to this effect.

Fear of conservative Bush appointees to the Supreme Court is not a good reason for holding one's nose and voting for the Democrats. When Clinton had the opportunity to nominate progressives to the court to counterbalance the right-wing ideologues already in place thanks to Republican presidents, he instead nominated social moderates (pro-corporate Steven Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.) Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan-type civil libertarians they're not. Clinton refused to fight the good fight as did Ronald Reagan in the case of his nominee, extremist Robert Bork.

No one can be confident that Gore's Supreme Court appointments would be sympathetic to the gay community.

Finally, voting for Nader is not a wasted vote. While Nader's chances of winning this year are slim, he will more than likely get enough votes to insure federal financing for the Green Party in future elections. This is important because the existence of a viable progressive alternative third party is the only thing that will force the Democratic Party to finally stop taking gay and lesbian voters and other "captive" minority constituencies for granted. For a change, why not feel good about voting for a presidential candidate who firmly supports your rights?

Jim Kelly
Cherry Grove
Fire Island, New York

Birch not the first

HRC's callow Elizabeth Birch tried to claim this year she was the first GLBT community leader to speak at a Democratic convention. Your reporter Bob Roehr (B.A.R., August 17) corrected her, noting Melvin Boozer beat her to it in 1980. Allow me in turn to correct your reporter: if memory serves, San Francisco's own departed Jim Foster was awarded a few minutes at the 1972 convention which nominated George McGovern.

A note to members of the Uncle Tom's Cabin Club might be in order: even if you guys get to hint you are gay from the Republican podium in 2004 – or, God forbid, you should be allowed a brief aside to the effect that your people have real needs that might use some federal solutions – you will still be late by more than a generation.

Alan Weaver
San Francisco

About-face on candidate

I owe Shawn O'Hearn, candidate for supervisor, District 8, an apology for my being so gullible as to believe the distorted remarks attributable to Shawn in the Terry Beswick piece ("Gay District 8 supe candidate wants power," August 3). Shawn is a remarkable man and not deserving of such misrepresentations of his character. And I should have known better having been a friend of Shawn's for many years. I am truly embarrassed. Your paper owes Shawn O'Hearn an apology as well for distorting his remarks and thereby besmirching his reputation. Your reporters ought to carry a tape recorder or learn shorthand to get the facts straight.

Denise D'Anne
Candidate for Supervisor, District 6

Schlessinger is a doctor

I am writing to clarify three points mentioned in Dr. Menaster's August 3 letter regarding Dr. Laura. While I agree with Dr. Menaster in that Dr. Laura is misleading the public, I feel that his rationale is flawed.

Firstly, Dr. Laura is a "real doctor." She holds a Ph.D. in physiology. This certainly gives her the right to call herself "doctor." Physicians are not the only types of doctors and are certainly not the only real ones.

Secondly, Dr. Laura is not riding the coattails of the medical profession, but rather the profession of psychology. Her use of the term "doctor" is misleading to the public in that it gives the appearance that she is a psychologist, as psychologists are appropriately referred to as doctors. Her doctorate is not in psychology or any mental health field for that matter. She has a master's degree in counseling and is a licensed marriage, family, and child counselor (MFCC) since 1980.

Thirdly, Dr. Menaster questions if Dr. Laura is in violation of the California Business and Professions Code 2274. The code states: "The use by any licensee of any certificate, of any letter, letters, word, words, term, or terms either as a prefix, affix, or suffix indicating that he or she is entitled to engage in a medical practice for which he or she is not licensed constitutes

unprofessional conduct." She has never indicated that she is engaging in medical practice.

A more likely violation is California Business and Professions Code 2903. This code states: "No person may engage in the practice of psychology, or represent himself to be a psychologist, without a license granted under this chapter."

MFCs are covered under California Business and Professions Code 4980.02. It states that "the practice of marriage, family, and child counseling shall mean that service performed with individuals, couples, or groups wherein interpersonal relationships are examined for the purpose of achieving more adequate, satisfying, and productive marriage and family adjustments. This practice includes relationship and pre-marriage counseling."

As Dr. Laura continues to obfuscate the facts surrounding her training and background, psychologists and other mental health professionals, as well as physicians need to highlight and underscore her actual background, training, and experience in an accurate manner.

Andrew Bertagnoli, Ph.D.
San Francisco

Stop blaming gay men

I'm getting sick and tired of hearing that gay men keep spreading AIDS at an alarming rate. Get your facts straight folks. Heterosexual teens have the highest rate of infection, not to mention heterosexuals in general. Most of us gay men use protection and are safe. I'm tired of gay men getting the blame for this. They are wrong. They (the heterosexual community) blamed us for starting the epidemic. Wrong again. This epidemic started in Africa. Monkeys were the carrier and passed it on to adults. Get more educated and learn something before pointing fingers.

Scott Sproat
Concord, California

Gold's: A spigot dispensing disgust

Some months ago Gold's Gym took over what was arguably the leading lesbibgayer gym in the Castro, the Market Street Gym. Since then, they have replaced and repaired the equipment and have begun major renovations. These are welcome steps.

Unfortunately, there has been a heavy price for such material improvements: straight people have been added to the staff and the top management has adopted strait (as in strait-laced) ways of judging what is "inappropriate behavior." This includes accosting one member for wearing stretchy shorts, then verbally slamming him by saying that for him to "exhibit his privates in public" was "disgusting." This, even though many guys at Gold's have long worn such shorts.

They are also threatening to require that all wear shorts at all times when working out. And after closing the hot tub, they began monitoring the showers for "inappropriate behavior."

Gold's actions are yet another attack on the queer Castro, that oasis in the desert of America's vigilantes who enforce sexual "normalcy." Gold's is yet another spigot dispensing disgust on any who defy the discipline poured on us by strait culture.

Gold's is just part of the assimilationist-straight alliance of monied people who are invading the Castro to earn profits from lesbibgayer customers. Having Gold's, with its national straight-attracting brand name, take over the premier lesbibgayer gym in the Castro is similar to having McDonald's take over Cafe Flore as a franchise, or having the Gap take over Body-Body, or Time-Warner-AOL take over Jaguar Adult Books.

These incidents lead me to announce: Gold's Gym on Market Street now enforces a strait code of conduct. Help us reclaim this gym in the heart of the Castro by e-mailing descriptions of incidents to: goldgymwatch@yahoo.com.

Richard R. Cornwall
San Francisco

Running dogs

The article in the August 3 issue by Katie Szymanski ("Ruff relations threaten public space") seemed entirely from the dog owner's viewpoint, or to be fair, from the viewpoint of those dog owners who like to take their dogs out to "run" in public parks. We all know what "run" really means, and this is why those of us who don't take our dogs out to "run" all over the parks find it really nauseating to have to tiptoe through these parks to avoid stepping in dog "run."

Our sidewalks are already covered in dog "run" left by dog owners who pick up after their dogs only when they know they are being watched. What they really want is to have all the parks turned over to them, too. Witness the complaint of the anonymous dog lover in your article, "Why should I stay here when the perks of this city are being slowly rescinded?" Frankly sir, I never granted you the "perk" of letting your dog "run" all over my parks.

Louis Bryan
San Francisco

POLITICS



Californians, including some of the Bay Area's gay and lesbian community, showed off the rainbow flag at last week's Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. In back from left, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Supervisor Mark Leno, Assemblywoman Carole Migden, and recently retired E*Trade COO Kathy Levinson; in front, Supervisor Tom Ammiano and an unidentified member of the California delegation.

Gore and Bush draw campaign battle lines

by Wayne Friday

With post-convention polls showing the Democratic presidential ticket of Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman picking up an unexpected heavy political bounce against the Republican ticket of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney, the race for president now appears to be in a political dead heat with a little over two months before the November 7 general election.

Nearly every major public opinion poll showed Gore, previously trailing Bush by sometimes double-digits, now either even with the Republican, or slightly ahead of the Texas governor. Both political camps are now pondering what they must do to achieve a November win. For Gore and Lieberman to be victorious, they must energize their base of minorities, liberals and union members, hold on to their leads in the Northeast and California, and erase Bush's current lead among independent voters and carry some of the big battleground states that stretch from New Jersey to Missouri.

Democrats were clearly buoyed by Gore's acceptance speech at last week's national convention and fortified by the presence of Lieberman on the ticket. Many of Gore's advisers, having been concerned about his campaign prior to the Los Angeles convention, now feel that they have an uphill, but winnable battle on their hands. Indeed, polls by NBC, CNN, Newsweek, and the New York Times had Gore actually overtaking his GOP opponent this week, and most political observers in both parties now feel that the upcoming presidential debates will very likely determine the eventual winner.

For Bush to win in November he must hold on to the independent voters who are leaning toward him and build support in states that Bill Clinton took away from Republicans in the last two elections. Tennessee, Gore's home state, is among those states Bush needs to win. An example of what Gore must do to defeat Bush is to win in Tennessee, where polls show the two are currently neck

and neck. In contrast, polls show Bush with a commanding lead in his home state of Texas. While neither national convention produced much more than a collective yawn for American voters, and while the national press and pundits dismissed the two events as little more than calculated, made-for-TV infomercials, the conventions did give voters an opportunity to compare the national party platforms that both Gore and Bush will be running on.

Democrats reached out to minorities like gays, and featured several lesbians who addressed the convention—the Human Rights Campaign's Elizabeth Birch, Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, San Francisco school board member Juanita Owens, California Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, and Democratic National Committee member Gloria Nieto. The Democrats came out strongly for gay rights, abortion, and gun control. Republicans, in contrast, oppose any form of gay rights, vehemently oppose abortion and any form of gun control, and didn't stray from the conservative party platform of the Republicans past.

The race is truly on, and while it is far too early to even muse about a winner in this one, the Gore-Bush contest will likely go down to the wire. Gore is viewed as the better debater, but not to worry—Republicans will prepare Bush like never before. Yep, this presidential race should be interesting—and plenty nasty before American voters get to the ballot box on November 7.

Politics and people

Assemblywoman Carole Migden is taking a little political heat for her comments to the Chronicle's Matier & Ross about Green Party nominee Ralph Nader. Heck, Migden might actually be on to something. Last week the assemblywoman also called for Nader to come out (no pun intended) in favor of full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans. In a letter to Nader, Migden cited several of Nader's equivocal statements from his 1996 and 2000 campaigns and called on him to embrace the LGBT communities' quest for

equality. Migden chided the Green guy for his refusal to oppose the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act while he has claimed the progressive mantle. Challenging Nader's reference to LGBT aspirations as "gonadal politics," Migden reminded him, "for LGBT Americans who are denied the economic benefits of marriage, DOMA represents the most severe form of economic injustice in our everyday lives." Migden also stated: "Your treatment of the concerns of the LGBT community by evading the issue as a minor one looks suspiciously like the tactics of George W. Bush and the Republican Party." While you might not always agree with the woman, Migden tells it like it is and has more common sense than most politicians I've met over the past 30 years.

Also, at the convention, Migden came unglued when the Boy Scouts of America said the pledge of allegiance and presented the colors at the convention. Given the Scouts' anti-gay policies, that didn't sit well with Migden.

I don't agree with too many of Ken Garcia's columns in the San Francisco Chronicle, but he sure hit it on the head recently when he castigated the local Roman Catholic Archdiocese for its original plan to fire young rectory workers so that the clergy wouldn't be tempted sexually by them. Archbishop William Levada quickly reversed himself, of course, after the public outcry, but didn't the local Catholic hierarchy have it all backwards? Perhaps they should fire some of the clergy to save them millions in lawsuits and the bad publicity instead of worrying themselves crazy about what temptations the youngsters would present to the clergy.

Meanwhile, in Honolulu, a lawsuit (yes, another one) was filed against a Catholic priest convicted of molesting a young boy and the religious order to which he belonged; the suit filed against Mark Matson and the Theatine fathers alleges the order showed negligence in hiring, training, supervising, and disciplining the priest. Matson, 52, received a 20-year sentence for sexually assaulting a 13-year old boy in 1998.

Supervisor Mark Leno won the overwhelming endorsement of the District 8 Democratic Club over five other candidates in the race.

L.A. District Attorney Gil Garcetti appears headed for a de-

page 23 ▶

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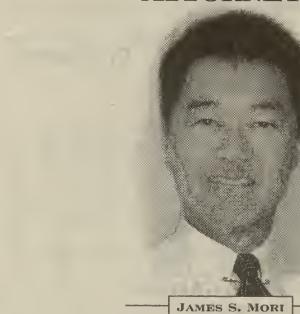
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What a difference a smile makes

Saying what we mean

by Joan M. Garry

What are words for, when no one listens anymore?"

Missing Persons, an 1980s band, asked this question. In today's media-soaked society, it's still a good one.

The power of words: Who can hear or read the "I Have a Dream" speech by Martin Luther King Jr. and not be moved? To convey his message, King knew how to select just the right words with meanings he knew people would understand and respond to on a deep level.

Today, the meaning of words as the crux of communication is being challenged. We're bombarded from every angle with words from people who want our attention, money, and support.

Because we are often at half-attention, words can be manipulated to have false meanings and to even lose their true meaning. Consider "classic," a word whose meaning is now lost. Everything from Spam to a month-old comedy movie is called classic, diluting the meaning so something truly classic can no longer be perceived as special. Consider "conservative," a word that used to mean a political position for small, non-intrusive government. Its meaning has been pushed so far right by political extremists that today the word is applied without scrutiny to social reactionaries such as Pat Buchanan and Gary Bauer.

Word manipulation in the media often works against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Whoever an-

nexed the word "family" to be a tool of radical religious extremists knew the power of words. Linguists have found "family" carries a heavy emotional wallop. We attend to it both consciously and unconsciously. By successfully forging the false link that the LGBT community is the opposite of family, if not its ultimate destroyer, these groups can catch people's attention and support by just throwing "family" in organizational names and media material that defame and denigrate us. The same goes for the "special rights" the LGBT community is supposed to be demanding and don't deserve. Any non-biased, cursory examination of the facts shows that we only want and deserve equal rights. But, because "no one listens anymore," people just hear the phrase "special rights" and oppose whatever it's attached to.

I must say our own community is just as guilty. Take "hate." This very powerful word is thrown about with abandon at anybody who expresses an opposing opinion to the LGBT community's goals. Granted, many people absolutely deserve to be called hateful and seem to exist only to do as much harm to lesbians and gay men as possible. But, does everyone deserve to be labeled as hateful? How often is someone called hateful when they really are confused, naive, or uninformed? The Reverend Fred Phelps of Topeka, Kansas, is hateful without question

when he gleefully pickets the funerals of gay men; the mother who goes to the school board to oppose a gay-straight alliance could just be ignorant to the reality of what LGBT youth face on a daily basis. As soon as we label her hateful though, she tunes us out. We are seen as the haters because we are cavalier with a very powerful word.

I think of words as I envision the future of the LGBT community's work. Attacks on us have become much more subtle. While there is still plenty of blatantly homophobic and negative portrayals in entertainment and news media to deal with, defamation often is now the "it's not what they say but how they say it" variety. Laura Schlessinger is a prime example. She doesn't actually say homosexuals practice bestiality and pedophilia, but she links the three as topics in one sentence, making the connection in listeners' minds without actually saying it.

As a community that must still work diligently to be portrayed fairly and accurately, we cannot lose sight of the power of words – those used against us and the ones we choose ourselves. We must be vigilant about correcting language misuse when we hear it or see it and work to ensure that our outgoing messages are heard loudly and perhaps more importantly, clearly. ▼

Joan Garry is the executive director of GLAAD.

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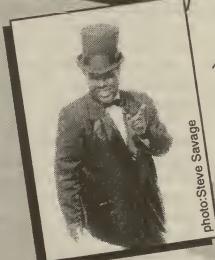
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COMMENTARY

The perfunctory party

by Dale Carpenter

To anyone who thinks gay life in America is a series of problems for which there is a corresponding list of legislative solutions, Al Gore and the Democratic Party might seem a godsend. Yet in their recent national convention in Los Angeles, Democrats advanced little actual policy and retreated in symbolism. It should make us seriously question the depth of their commitment.

Consider the Democratic platform. A party's platform is the expression of its most committed (or extreme) members. If the Democrats are really pro-gay, their platform should be a veritable pink manifesto. Let's see.

The Democratic national platform is longer than Santa Monica Boulevard, enumerating specific positions on everything from teen smoking to the Kyoto Protocols (don't ask). In the middle of the thing, midway through a protracted paragraph, and directly between a proposal to "count every American" in the 2000 census and a rejection of "predatory lending practices," we encounter these three sentences: "We support continued efforts, like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to end workplace discrimination against gay men and lesbians. We support the full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation. This would include an equitable alignment of benefits."

That's it. (Elsewhere, there is an endorsement of useless and probably unconstitutional federal hate crimes legislation.) This is the cutting edge of Democratic thought on gay issues.

Is it just me, or does this affirmation of equality seem sickly? Note that it endorses "equitable" — not equal — benefits for gay couples. What does this mean? It can't mean gay marriage, since the Gore Democrats oppose that and have written their opposition into federal law. If "equitable benefits" means something substantive there are good English phrases like "domestic partnerships" or "civil unions" to say so.

In 30,000 words, there's no mention of ending the ban on gays in the military. The platform does assert "all patriotic Americans [should] be allowed to serve their country." You can read that to include patriotic gays, patriotic little children, patriotic felons in San Quentin, or any patriots you like. It's like the GOP standing for "tolerance" but not saying who should be tolerated.

Maybe asking for these details is too picky, but you have to be careful with a party that brought us a president who parses the meaning of "is" and a presidential nominee who denies that fundraisers are fundraisers. You have to ask more from the administration that signed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" into law.

Forget the platform, some would say. What really matters is what the party's presidential nominee says.

They tell us Al Gore wrote his own acceptance speech, that it reflected his priorities, and that it came from his heart. Let's see what's in that heart.

Like the Democratic platform, the speech was a long policy menu. Gore backed an increase in the minimum wage, affirmative action, abortion rights, access for

the disabled, HMO reform, and so on.

Even more significant was its tone, which might have fit nicely at a revival meeting. Gore mentioned "family values" four times. He offered to protect society from those who "prey on our children" on the Internet. He spotlighted several happy traditional families whose problems he would solve. He cited the significance of religious faith.

There is nothing necessarily wrong with any of that.

Family values are important; child molesters should be prosecuted; heterosexuals should be happy; and religious faith is healthy. But when Republicans talk like that we say they are "speaking in code" to arouse anti-gay feelings without directly saying so.

Gore never mentioned "gays" in his speech-from-the-heart. That's one less plug than he gave Diet Coke. In this, Gore was not alone. No national politician used

the words "gay" or "lesbian" from the podium, according to Michelangelo Signorile, who called it a "closet convention." The Democrats badly want our support — especially our money — but they'd prefer people don't hear about it.

Commitment to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." It's apparently on his list, but not in his heart.

The speech and the convention were a preview of the perfunctory presidency. For Gore Democrats, basic justice for gay Americans is buried somewhere on a lengthy

form. It will take more than opportunists who know how to make us feel important at black-tie dinners. It will take more than demagogues who scare us into giving them millions of dollars.

It will take leaders willing to lobby, to cajole, and to spend their political capital. It will take statesmen able to articulate why discrimination is wrong and why equality is just. As Gore nicely put it, without a hint of shame, it will take a president resolved "to spend his popularity in order to pick the hard right over the easy wrong." It will take someone who "gets it."

After eight years of picking the easy wrong, and a convention of studiously avoiding the hard right, Gore and the Democrats clearly don't get it. ▼



OutRight

Achieving equality in this country will take more than politicians who know how to check off the right boxes on a form. It will take more than opportunists who know how to make us feel important at black-tie dinners.

Gore was even more tight-lipped than his party's platform about actual gay issues. Although he mentioned support for ENDA, he never explained what it is or why it is important. He never mentioned his new-found com-

mitment to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." It's apparently on his list, but not in his heart.

The speech and the convention were a preview of the perfunctory presidency. For Gore Democrats, basic justice for gay Americans is buried somewhere on a lengthy

list of concerns between statistical sampling in the decennial census and usurious loans.

Achieving equality in this country will take more than politicians who know how to check off the right boxes on a

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.

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Police arrest suspect in gay attacks

by Katie Szymanski
and Jane Warner

Two men suspected of attacks on gay men in several states were arrested in the Castro last Saturday, August 19, police said.

Police circulated a flier last Friday to all the bars in the Castro concerning two men wanted in connection with a murder in Santa Monica, California. Both men, originally from Massachusetts, were also wanted in their home state for their connections with several armed robberies.

The men were listed as suspects in the August 7 Santa Monica murder after allegedly picking up a gay man from a bar, taking him to his house, and fatally stabbing him several times. The suspects allegedly took \$2,000 from the victim and stole his car, dumping it in Kern County.

On August 10, police said, the suspects traveled to San Francisco via a Greyhound bus and alleged-

ly used the murdered man's calling card at pay phones on the 400 block of Market, 725 Columbus Avenue, and 17th and Church streets. The suspects then allegedly committed another robbery, picking up a gay man in North Beach and taking his wallet. The flier circulated by police showed photos of the men, both Caucasian, with shaved heads and several of the same tattoos, one of which read, "Irish Blood." The flier also said both men spoke with a heavy East Coast accent.

Last Saturday at about 8:30 p.m., two men fitting the description on the flier tried to enter the Cafe at 2369 Market Street. An alert doorman asked the pair for identification and the men argued in heavy Boston accents that they didn't have any. According to the doorman, Frank Cueno, "I knew right away they were the suspects when I heard their accents. The one looked just like his picture."

The men left the Cafe and Cueno immediately called 911. Other Cafe staff followed the sus-

pects eastbound on market but lost them in the area.

Responding police set up manned parameters at all streets surrounding the neighborhood and an officer spotted the men in front of the John Frank Restaurant, 2100 Market. Both men were surrounded by police at gun point and taken into custody without incident. Found in their possession were two knives and a set of thumb cuffs, police said.

Booked for several warrants for robbery in Massachusetts and California, and for the murder in Santa Monica, were John Lydon, 25, and Paul Devlin, 23.

Castro robberies continue

Several additional armed robberies involving suspects of the same description have occurred in the Castro since the Bay Area Re-

porter first reported on the incidents last week.

On August 14 at 11:15 p.m. at 18th and Ord streets, a man walking to his car noticed two other men following him. Nervous, the man started to walk in the middle of the street. The two men ran up behind him and one of the suspects pulled a silver semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and demanded, "Give me your wallet." Not having a wallet, the man asked, "Do you take cash?" and handed over \$205 he had in his pocket. The suspects ran eastbound on 18th and then northbound on Douglass toward market.

Ten minutes later, a woman at Market and Douglass who was taking out her keys from her purse to enter her building was grabbed from behind by two men. Both men pulled her purse off her shoulder. The woman started to

scream and the suspects ran northbound on Douglass.

The next day, August 15, at 3:40 p.m., a woman walking on Alvarado from Douglass noticed a small burgundy car drive past her very slowly and then turn the corner. Suddenly, two men came from around the corner and pointed a silver semi-automatic handgun at her chest, saying, "Give me your purse." The woman complied. The men also took her gold ring. Both suspects fled on foot westbound on Alvarado.

Suspects in all of the instances over the past couple of weeks were described as African American males, 20-30 years old. One suspect is consistently described as 6 feet tall, with a shaved head or nylon cap, wearing a dark nylon jacket. The second suspect has been described as a couple of inches shorter, with an average build, also wearing dark clothing. A car is sometimes involved in the robberies; one victim described the driver as a woman.

Castro dwellers and visitors are advised once again not to walk alone in secluded areas, not to wear jewelry, and to keep cash separate from identification and keys. Carry \$10-\$15 in singles of "giveaway" money in a separate place from the rest of your cash. Do not resist a robber but do try to get a detailed physical description, license plates, and any other helpful identifying information belonging to your attackers. Call 911 immediately after the incident if you are robbed. ▼

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Marinol (dronabinol) is contraindicated in any patient who has a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or sesame oil.

WARNINGS

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypertension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of central nervous system depression in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients receiving concomitant therapy with sedatives, hypnotics or other psychotropic drugs because of the potential for additive or synergistic CNS effects.

Marinol should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more prone to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

Interaction with Alcohol: Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential additive central nervous system depression in Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

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Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid panic in the event of such manifestations. Patients should remain under the supervision of a responsible adult during initial use of Marinol (dronabinol). Dose adjustment should be made with caution in patients with a history of depression, anxiety, or mania. Marinol has been co-administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-emetics, agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug interactions. Although no drug/drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through both metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed *in vivo*, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering dronabinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug/drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table.

CONCOMITANT DRUG	CLINICAL EFFECT(S)
Ampheferamine, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents	Adverse hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity
Atropine, scopolamine, antihistamines, other anticholinergic agents	Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness
Amitriptyline, amoxapine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants	Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness
Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, buspirone, antihistamines, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants	Additive drowsiness and CNS depression
Disulfiram	A reversible hypotensive reaction was reported in a 23-year-old man who smoked marijuana; confirmed by discharge and rechallenge.
Fluoxetine	A 21-year-old female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine X 4 weeks became hypomanic after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days
Antipyrene, barbiturates	Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism
Theophylline	Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana, effect similar to that following smoking tobacco

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m², equivalent to 0.3 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, reduced ventral prostate, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testes were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings is unknown.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m², equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 232 mg/m², equivalent to 0.3 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 2 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients. These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate

and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experiences information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 86 receiving placebo. Studies of different dosages were combined by considering the first occurrence of events in the first 28 weeks. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 69 receiving placebo.

A cannabidiol dose-related "high" (easy euphoria, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by patients receiving Marinol in both the anesthetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (3%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 33% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients experienced CNS adverse events during the first 2 weeks and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-anesthetic use (given in parentheses).

Body as a whole: Asthenia.

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush.

Digestive: Abdominal pain*, nausea*, vomiting*.

Nervous system: Amnesia, anxiety/nervousness, (ataxia), confusion, depersonalization, dizziness*, euphoria*, (hallucination), paranoid reaction*, somnolence*, thinking abnormal*.

* Incidence of events 3% to 10%.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317).

Cardiovascular: Congestive heart failure*, hypertension*.

Digestive: Diarrhea*, fecal incontinence.

Musculoskeletal: Myalgia*, stiffness*.

Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, tinnitus.

Skin and Appendages: Flushing*.

Special senses: Vision difficulties.

* Incidence of events 0.3% to 3%.

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.

The clinical significance of the association of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as alerting information for the clinician.

Body as a whole: Chills, headache, malaise.

Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.

Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.

Skin and Appendages: Sweating.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is abusive and controlled [Schedule III (CIII)] under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen in prolonged high dose users.

Over time, Marinol can become associated with decrements in motivation, cognition, judgment, and perception. The etiology of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction rather than an isolated effect of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to five months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social behavior were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

After discontinuation of Marinol, patients receiving dosages of 210 mg/day for 12 to 16 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-drug discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes", sweating, rhinorrhea, loose stools, hiccups and coughs.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually dissipated over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hyporeactivity) were recorded in patients after abrupt discontinuation. Patients also complained of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuing therapy with high doses of dronabinol.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 100 to 2100 mg/kg (20 mg/70 kg) of Marinol. Significant CNS symptoms in anesthetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (20 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

Management: A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, instill activated charcoal (30 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depression, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam/po) may be used for treatment of extreme anxiety. Hypotension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

MARINOL® is a registered trademark of Unimed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and is marketed by Roxane Laboratories, Inc. under license from Unimed Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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109

Revised October 1999

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about this whether you're from the AIDS orthodoxy or not. The religious right just needs to latch onto a couple of Petrelis' quotes to say the gay community supports this when that's not the case."

Survive AIDS – formerly ACT UP/Golden Gate – has yet to take a position on the matter, according to Jeff Getty.

"We haven't really looked at it. There are a lot of things we like in the bill, such as the accountability aspect. Of course there are a lot of ugly things in there as well," said Getty.

Survive AIDS, like many HIV/AIDS organizations, advocates for treatment access. There is a valid school of thought that if HIV testing came with guaranteed health care, the discussion would take a different shape. But rarely does HIV legislation tie in treatment access, and the CARE Act is no exception.

"It's testing for testing's sake. There's nothing in here that says if the mother or infant is positive then health care or even prevention education will be provided," said Hansen. "For many of the folks behind the bill, the atmosphere is one of criminalization that says we have to know who the positives are because they cannot be trusted."

For Hansen the question is how far the HIV community will be willing to go to oppose mandatory testing.

"The CARE Act is critical. Are we going to send pregnant women and newborns down the river for the sake of our funding, or are we going to reject the CARE Act and say this is not acceptable?" said Hansen.

"Five years ago," she added, "there was only a handful of us willing to do that." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lesbian more caring parent than straight father, court rules

by S. Predrag

In a landmark legal opinion, Pretoria's High Court Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann has ruled that a 17-year-old schoolgirl, who complained that her heterosexual father was treating her like a prisoner, is to be placed in the care of her lesbian mother.

The decision was viewed by gay rights advocates as a victory for homosexuals in South Africa, a country where not long ago, during the apartheid era, certain military doctors tried to "cure" gay and lesbian conscripts through aversion therapy treatments consisting of electric shock and hormone drugs. Some even experimented with chemical castration and sex change operations; many

pointedly ignored her birthdays until she finally complained to her mother who immediately asked the court for custody.

The lesbian mother claimed that her former husband's treatment of their daughter would damage the 17-year-old girl psychologically and would harm her academic records and further progress in school. She also maintained that her children were old enough to make their own decisions and accept her 11-year relationship with another woman.

The mother's accusations were backed by a psychological expert's report that stated that the girl had already been severely traumatized by her father's harsh treatment.

Bertelsmann made his historic ruling after talking to the victimized girl privately and went even

at the Zonnebloem College Estate chapel by pastor Clayton Wakeford from the Grace Ministries for gay and lesbian people.

Although the South African constitutional court ruled recently that same-gender couples are capable of equal family life in the same way that their heterosexual counterparts are, the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria still refuses to legalize this marriage because it does not recognize a same-gender union.

"We want our union to be legal and we know it is going to be a big fight. ... We love each other and want to spend the rest of our lives together," Jordaan told the local media.

She also promised, "We will go to the constitutional court where we'll fight not only for ourselves, but for the many other gay and lesbian couples whose marriages are not recognized in this country." ▼

The children were placed in the custody of their heterosexual father who was very strict and insisted that his daughter call him "sir".

of these procedures were reportedly not completed and resulted in patient mutilation and even deaths, according to a recent report.

It was seven years ago that Bertelsmann's colleague, Justice Monis Flemming, ruled that the lesbian mother in question and her partner could not share a room during the weekends when the mother's children – a teenage boy and girl – came to visit.

The children were placed in the custody of their heterosexual father who was very strict and insisted that his daughter call him "sir".

However, the worst was yet to come – when he learned from his daughter's diary that she was having sex with her boyfriend.

The father immediately enforced some drastic punishments: the daughter was forbidden to use the phone at home, to receive any calls or visits, to watch television, and even to listen to the radio. The father would not allow her to attend extra lessons at school and repeatedly threatened to ask the school headmaster to strip his daughter of her academic colors.

In order to further punish and humiliate his daughter, the father

further by setting aside a seven-year-old ruling which forbade her mother and partner from sharing a room during the children's visits.

Although Bertelsmann has yet to announce his written judgment, he provisionally ruled that the girl would be living with her lesbian mother.

He stressed that the South African Constitution does not allow any discrimination against homosexuals and said that gays and lesbians may not be stigmatized.

According to Article 9 of the constitution, "The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, color, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth."

Lesbian couple marry

Bertelsmann's landmark ruling is yet another victory for human rights, but it does not mean that the battle for equal rights for homosexuals in South Africa is over.

Marinda Jordaan, 44, and Elsie Prinsloo, 29, got married recently

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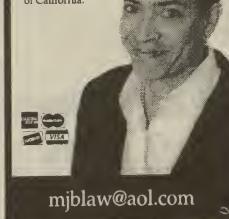
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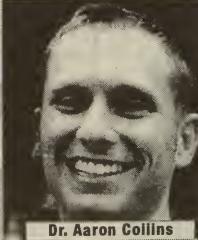
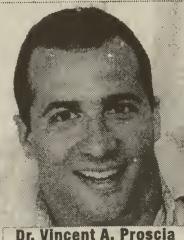
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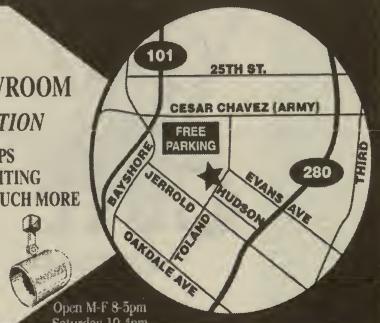


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MasterCard sues Nader over campaign ad

by Bob Roeher

Grilled tenderloin for fundraiser: \$1,000 a plate. Campaign ads filled with half-truths: \$10 million. Promises to special interest groups: over \$10 billion. Finding out the truth: priceless. There are some things

that money can't buy."

The television ad uses images of presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush in a story framework reminiscent of the ongoing advertising campaign by MasterCard.

But rather than selling credit cards, it has a very different purpose, which is made clear in the final phrase: "Without Ralph Nader in the presidential debates, the truth will come in last."

The ad began running in a limited number of markets in early August with the purpose of gaining Nader's participation in those debates along with Bush and Gore. Nader became the nominee of the Green Party at its convention in Denver on June 25. The major parties are balking at the inclusion of Nader and Reform Party nominee Pat Buchanan in the debates later this fall and the pair has filed suit in federal court to force participation.

MasterCard did not see imitation as the sincerest form of flattery but as an infringement of copyrights and trademarks that "misleads viewers into believing



Rick Gerhardt

Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader has been sued by MasterCard for his television campaign ad.

that MasterCard is endorsing Mr. Nader's campaign."

The company asked Nader to stop running the ad. When he re-

fused, on August 16 it sued in federal court in Manhattan, seeking an injunction to stop the ads and \$5 million in damages.

At a Washington news conference the next day, Nader suggested MasterCard should "lighten up." He called the ad a parody, which is allowed under the "fair use" principle of law. Furthermore, the Nader ad is political speech, which is afforded the highest degree of protection under the Constitution.

Gay Democrats

Nader bothers Democrats as well, although a weekend CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll showed Nader's 8 percent showing in recent polls dwindling to 3 percent, based on 697 likely voters surveyed last Friday and Saturday. Gore and Bush are practically in a dead heat at 47 and 46 percent respectively, according to the poll, which has an error margin of 4 percentage points.

Nader's support is primarily among environmentalists and those on the liberal end of the political spectrum, folks who otherwise likely would vote for Gore.

At least five states — Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin — are considered competitive between Gore and Bush because of the support that Nader is drawing.

Gay and lesbian Democratic political leaders are among the most concerned. The Stonewall Democrats went so far as to pass a resolution charging that "any votes for Ralph Nader will only serve to help elect Governor George Bush." The group's political director, Daniel McGlinchey, said that once gays and lesbians understand that, they would vote for Gore.

Carole Migden, the powerful assemblywoman who represents San Francisco in the California Legislature, raised the possibility that Nader is a closet case. In the best spirit of Joseph McCarthy, she told the *California Triangle*, "All I'm saying is that he has strong ties to the community — and has for years — and hasn't been forthright about it."

"That's like asking, 'When did you stop beating your wife?'" Nader told *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Phil Matier and Andrew Ross. "But the answer to her inference [that I'm gay] is no."

Migden apparently based her assumption on little more than the facts that Nader is an older male who never has had a publicly identified romantic relationship, and his office is in the Dupont Circle area of Washington, D.C.

This reporter lives in that same

page 23 ▶

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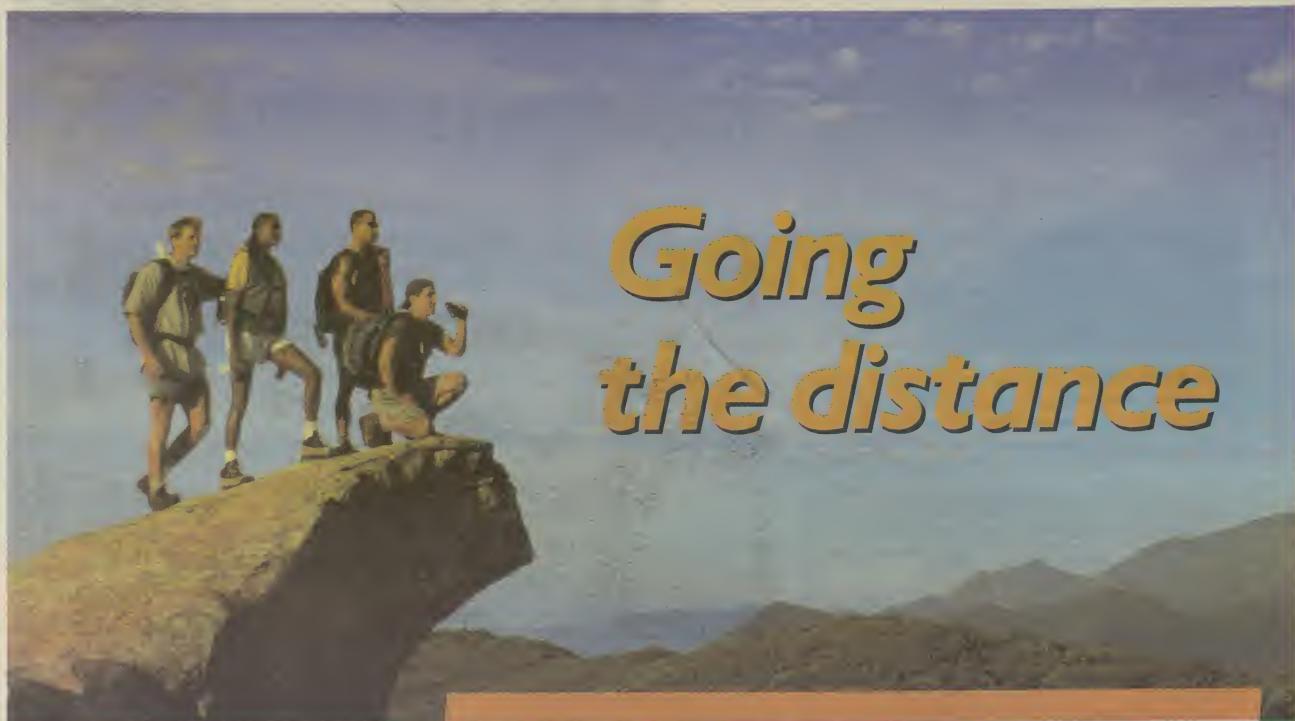
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■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Also, taking CRIXIVAN with any products containing St. John's wort, an herbal supplement, is not recommended because it may decrease the effectiveness of CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹ Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor. Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, **every day**. It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. Take CRIXIVAN with water. You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar)
corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar

Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.

6. It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, **every day**. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.

Also talk to your doctor if you have:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia
- High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines, herbal products including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or dietary supplements.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?**

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
ORAP® (pimozide)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
PROPULSIDI® (cisapride)	

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with the following: Rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Taking CRIXIVAN with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Taking St. John's wort has been shown to decrease CRIXIVAN levels and may lead to decreased effectiveness of CRIXIVAN and other HIV-related drugs.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIMV™ (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35° (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	Methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SCRIPTOR® (deleavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

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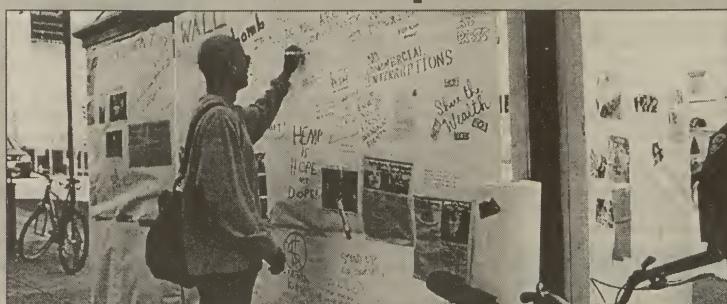


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COMMUNITY NEWS

Feedback from LA protests

Jane Philomen Oldand

Activists who participated in protests at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles targeting corporate greed and equal rights for gays posted this "talking wall" at the Muni bus shelter at Castro and Market streets last Saturday, August 19. Muni officials, with the help of police, forced organizers to move comment-filled paper to a building across the sidewalk because it violated Muni's policy of posting material on a shelter without prior permission. Muni officials denied the talking wall was moved because it was covering up a dot-com ad on the bus shelter.

Gay senior housing project moves forward

by Katie Szymanski

Well, it's about time. For all the years we've had to age gracefully next to elderly heterosexuals in retirement homes, organizations across the country are finally taking steps to create senior living quarters of our very own.

One such place is Rainbow Adult Community Housing, planned for San Francisco. RACH is few steps closer to getting off the ground, thanks in part to the project recently receiving three grants to further develop its work. Now two years in the making, RACH was awarded \$4,000 from the Gill Foundation, \$25,000 from Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, and \$15,000 from the Horizons Foundation/Gateway Initiative.

These grants, in conjunction with other grants received, will be used to help create a business plan, secure a site for the housing complex, and develop long-term strategic planning, according to RACH co-chair Dr. Marcy Adelman.

"We're very excited, and things are definitely getting under way," Adelman told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Expected to be up in running within five to seven years, RACH will be a "supportive housing" community, which means independent living with some perks like dining and transportation services. There will be 70-100 units consisting of studio, one bedroom, and two bedroom apartments.

Presently, the RACH team is concentrating on the basics for this project, but would also like

people to fill out its survey regarding senior housing preferences.

"It takes five minutes to fill out and it's very helpful to us," said Adelman, who said RACH has collected about 500 surveys and hopes to collect 500 more. "Anyone can fill them out, really. We're looking at what we need to know now and what we'll need to know for the future of senior housing."

Surveys will be available at the upcoming Castro Street Fair as well as at other public events.

Adelman would also like the community to know that RACH holds monthly meetings, and anyone interested in attending should call (415) 281-0800 for information.

"We're always looking for input," she said, "and more people with whom we can share our ideas." ▶

LGBT family groups go to museum Sat.

by Cynthia Laird

Three Bay Area groups that work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families are hosting a trip to the Bay Area Discovery Museum this Saturday, August 26, and interested kids and their families are welcome to attend.

Children of Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, All Our Families Coalition, and Our Family are sponsoring the free evening that

includes pizza and an evening of exploration through the museum.

Jude Koski told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "and it's an exciting way for kids in all areas of the Bay Area to get to know other kids."

Interested people can just show up; the LGBT family groups will be at the Discovery Museum from 4-7 p.m. The museum is located at 557 McReynolds Road, in Sausalito. ▶

For more information, call Katje Hempel at COLAGE, (415) 861-5437.

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Barebacking

◀ page 1

has driven HIV prevention efforts from the beginning of the epidemic: the old, well-worn "use a condom every time."

Citing "basic learning theory," Steven Tierney, director of HIV prevention at DPH, explained earlier this month to the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council, "If people hear 'use a condom every time,' and then they don't do that ... they will begin to tune that out."



Rick Gerhardt
DPH's Steven Tierney

"It's a whole combination of stuff: whether it feels better, or there's a greater sense of connectedness, whether it's your boyfriend or trick number eight at the bathhouse," said Michael Scarce, explaining why more gay men are turning back to barebacking in the 20th year of the HIV epidemic in San Francisco.

Scarce, a doctoral student in medical sociology at the UCSF, and author of the recent *Smearing the Queer: Medical Bias in the Health Care of Gay Men*, wrote a widely disseminated and highly controversial article about barebacking published in *POZ* magazine in February 1999. Accompanying the article was a sidebar called "Safer Barebacking Considerations," a list of eight ways gay men who had decided to bareback could reduce their risk of infection with HIV or other STDs

[www.thebody.com/poz/features/2_99/bareback.html].

"Folks were ballistic when they saw that because it represents all the questions that they get on a daily basis, and that we continue to dance around," Scarce told the *Bay Area Reporter*, explaining that prevention organizations around the country had not come to terms with the idea of barebacking in the gay community — much less using "harm reduction" techniques to help people to do it more safely.

"In the past, most folks in public health have thought of harm reduction as a method of reducing risk," Scarce said. "Harm reduction is thought of more broadly in Europe, which has been so much more progressive, not just with needle exchange, but in doing away with harmful laws that stigmatize [needle users]."

Less enticing?

Could removing the taboo stigma from barebacking also make it less enticing?

In the context of HIV prevention, Scarce noted, harm reduction embodies "a willingness to trade a potential increase in unsafe behavior for a potential decrease in harm associated with it," a definition still resisted by publicly funded prevention groups.

"They're still responsible for serving the entire community," Scarce stated, however, "and that includes barebackers."

From the beginning of the HIV epidemic, gay and bisexual men, who comprise the vast majority of HIV cases in San Francisco, have often been forced to make life-and-death decisions based on intuition and limited data from medical research.

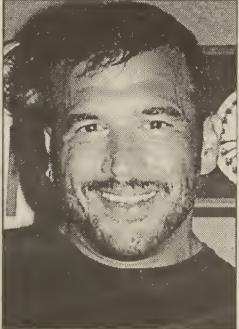
Some of the techniques and suggestions listed below, which offer some ideas on harm reduction for barebackers, are culled from numerous interviews with men who bareback, as well as with researchers and front-line prevention workers.

As Scarce put it in a preface to his *POZ* piece last year, "This is not a set of HIV prevention guidelines. Intended only for gay men

who have already decided not to use condoms for anal sex, some advocates believe these strategies may help reduce the harm associated with barebacking. Here, harm should be interpreted more broadly than HIV infection; these tips may also help reduce the risk of other STDs. And bear in mind that much of this info is anecdotal and debated by researchers."

• Know what you will do. Everything in life is a trade-off, right? Everyone is balancing potential risk with known pleasure, whether you are into hang-gliding, cigarette smoking, walking in San Francisco, or barebacking. Learn what you can about the risks associated with different sexual practices, and decide how important each act is to your sexual fulfillment. Decide in advance what sexual acts you will participate in. Write them down.

• Know what you will not do. Even the biggest barebacking fans in your neighborhood who say sex is not sex without anal-penile intercourse (i.e. fucking) and that they will never use a condom will actually, when pressed, admit that there have been times when they have drawn the line. "If you're negative, stay negative," offered HIV-positive barebacker Niq Shelbi, a local titleholder in the leather community.



Mister Marcus
Bareback proponent Niq Shelbi

• Decide what precautions you will take. If barebacking made it onto your "must do" list of sexual pleasures, then think about ways you can reduce your risk of infection or re-infection with HIV, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases. Decide what precautions you will take all the time, and which you will take under certain circumstances. Write them down on a list. Add them to your AOL profile.

• Be consistent. Generally speaking, sex partners will be respectful of decisions you have made, although men are notoriously incapable of controlling their urge to persuade their partner (and themselves) into going further than they would choose in a less heated moment. But whatever you do, make it a conscious decision. "Consistency is a very good thing," said Keith Folger, director of the Positive Force program with the Stop AIDS Project. "If I develop a point of view, until the evidence changes, I should stick to it."

• Negotiate safety. Being firm is cool, but if the point is negotiable, being flexible is also considered an asset. "The moment" is not necessarily the best time to review your list of sexual favorites for possible cuts and revisions based on even the most intoxicating of seductive cues, but if he's got something on his list that is a "maybe" on yours, then find a cooler moment to have a little offline chat. Ask him the key questions that will help you decide whether he qualifies to pass "Go."

• Know your HIV serostatus. If you don't have a pretty good idea of what your own HIV status is —

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COMMUNITY NEWS

positive or negative – then you're on your own. And so are all your partners, as you aren't leaving them much room to fairly negotiate anything. But if you've already decided to bareback – either once in a while or every time, especially if you are versatile or a top – when your bottoms ask for your status, it's nice to be able to answer with your best manly, confident voice.

Take the test regularly. "While most gay men in San Francisco have been tested, the test may have been taken two or three years ago," noted DPH's Tierney. Generally speaking, even if you got your negative test results yesterday, the results don't mean a heck of a lot if you've been passing your weekends lately getting ploughed bareback by a dozen guys of unknown status. If you may have been infected with HIV during the "window" period of the last six months, you may not yet test positive for the antibodies, even though you are infectious. In fact, you may be highly infectious during the "peak" post-infection period of viral replication – more so than someone who has been infected for years. Some guys take the test every six months to a year. If you're big on barebacking, consider taking the test even more frequently, perhaps every three to six months.

Beware the false security factor. Some research has suggested that people who take the HIV antibody test frequently may be more likely to engage in barebacking, and therefore more likely to be infected. Some guys who have tested negative repeatedly say they figure they must be "immune" to HIV, though most likely they are somehow mitigating their risk, or simply beating the odds. It's just a blood test, not a vaccine. And for HIV-negative guys: don't bother with the expensive "viral load" tests to give you extra assurance that you're not infected with HIV. Lots of positive guys test below detectable levels on viral load tests, but they're still positive on the antibody test, and still harbor HIV in their organs and tissue.

Ask for his status. This is not Bill Clinton's military, it's San Francisco in the year 2000. Cur-

rent estimates are that about one in five men in the city are gay or bisexual (happy news), and an increasing number of them, perhaps 30 percent, are HIV-positive (partially happy news: HIV-positive guys are not dying at the rates they used to). While it's true that, if you're into group scenes, it may not be cool to stand on a chair and take a poll, it is still almost always socially acceptable – especially if they're thinking of topping you bareback – to ask mano-a-mano, "So, I'm negative, how about you?" Most positive guys would much rather that you ask beforehand, rather than watch you throw a self-righteous little fit afterwards. And if there's some quasi-militaristic "don't ask" house rule announced, then you've no choice but to assume: they're all positive, and are just not in a chatty mood. Steven Gibson, program director at the Stop AIDS Project, described the classic false "assumption" scenario: Two guys are on the verge of anal intercourse, with the top being HIV-positive and the bottom being HIV-negative. Neither asks for the other's status, nor volunteers his own status. "The negative guy thinks the top must be negative, too, or he'd put on a condom," said Gibson. "And because the bottom doesn't get out a condom, the positive top figures the bottom must be positive."

Ask how recently he took the test. Your chances may be significantly improved if your prospective partner states that he has recently tested negative for the virus that can cause AIDS.

Face it: some guys lie. This may come as a shock to uninformed readers, but gay men lie, too. And what's more, there have been several well-documented cases of positive guys flat-out lying about their status. It happens – and perhaps with greater frequency than scientists will ever be able to measure (they lie to the surveyors, too). But why do they lie, other than to satisfy their carnal desires? For one thing, it's fairly well understood that the recent, renewed interest in "natural," skin-on-skin barebacking among HIV-negative

guys is largely attributable to a sense that HIV infection is no longer a fatal illness. ("People who become infected now," DPH Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz stated at a recent press conference, "can now expect to live a normal life span.") Therefore, HIV-positive tops may not think it's as big a deal to bareback with HIV-negative guys as it used to be. Others may rationalize, if their viral load is very low, that somehow this gives them the right to decide the unknowing bottom's acceptable level of risk on their behalf. But, whatever the complex reasoning behind it, as Survive AIDS recently noted, "Living with HIV and AIDS is not glamorous, it's more about toxicities and diarrhea."

Again, this is not Clinton's military. If you are asked, then either tell, or take a pass on barebacking with your inquiring partner. The "harm reduction" model is predicated on honesty, and falls apart if guys are going to be lying about their HIV status as casually as many guys tell "fish stories" in their AOL profiles. (Note: people who knowingly put their partners at substantial risk of infection may be subject to criminal as well as civil penalties.)

Your partner is not responsible for you. The vast majority of HIV-positive men don't lie, if asked for their status by someone who has a reasonable right to know. However, a word to the wise: like it or not, many HIV-positive guys hold that their responsibility is limited to their own health. Period. "The only responsibility I have is to myself. And I'll do what I'm morally comfortable with. I'm not responsible for your health. You're responsible for your

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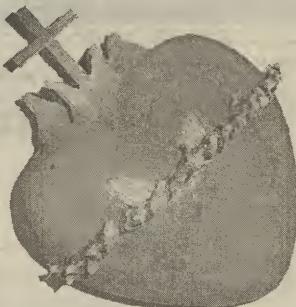
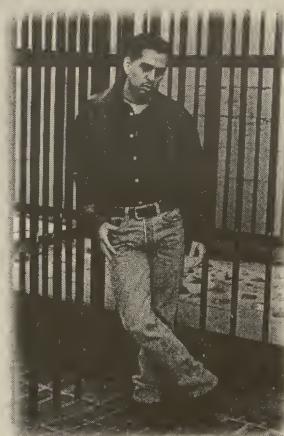
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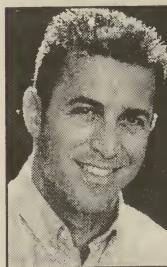


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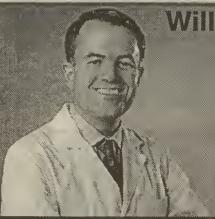




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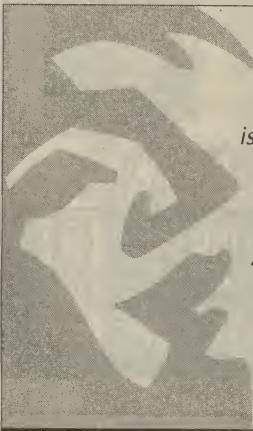


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Barebacking

◀ previous page

health. I'm responsible for my health," said "Mr. X" in the May 2000 Positive Living newsletter from AIDS Project Los Angeles [www.thebody.com/apla/may00/barebacker.html]. "If we did an across-the-board rule that nobody with HIV is going to use a condom, then we'd all be operating on the same assumption, and you'd see rates drop because people would learn that they could protect themselves, that it's not the responsibility of the person who is positive to protect the person who is negative. It's the responsibility of the person that's negative to protect himself."

• Get tested for STDs frequently. If you're going to bareback, it is critical that you check yourself frequently for other sexually transmitted diseases. There are more diseases out there besides HIV. While it is true that some sexually transmitted diseases can be treated with a quick course of antibiotics, sometimes people can be infected with syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and others, without displaying symptoms for years, and can unknowingly pass these on to others. Moreover, infection with another STD can leave your body vulnerable to infection with HIV. In San Francisco, free STD screenings are available at City Clinic. Call (415) 487-5500.

• Ask if he is STD-free. Ask your partner whether he has tested for STDs recently, and visually inspect your partner for signs of sexually transmitted diseases, including discharge from the penis, or sores, warts, bumps, or blisters on or near the genitals, rectum, or mouth.

• Get regular Pap smears. Some doctors recommend this simple test for exposure to human papilloma virus (HPV) every six months for HIV-positive men. HPV infection, which causes anal or genital warts, is very common, and has been associated with rising rates of anal cancer in gay men. Early detection is critical to effective treatment. "If you're going to be fucking bare, you're going to have a few kinds of HPV," noted Scarce, "so you're going to be at increased risk of anal cancer."

• Get vaccinated. Barebacking can expose you to hepatitis. Vaccines against hepatitis A and B are available in San Francisco at City Clinic.

• Have fun, but not too much fun. This one's a no-brainer, but nevertheless easy to overlook, especially when you're popular: limiting the number of partners will reduce the odds of infection or re-infection with HIV or other STDs. Scarce also noted that "rationing" the frequency of partners "allows time for healing of tears or trauma in the rectum, urethra and outer skin of the penis" — potential points of entry for HIV into the bloodstream. Last year, a UCSF/DPH study [American Journal of Epidemiology, August 1999] of over 2,000 gay men in the early 1990s found that the average risk of being infected from any one episode of unprotected receptive anal sex with a known HIV-positive partner was roughly one in 120, compared to one in 370 if the barebacking top was of unknown status. Average risk of infection from one episode of receptive anal sex with a condom with known HIV-positive partner: one in 1,000, according to the report.

• If you're HIV-negative (and versatile), think "top." Ask around, and you will see that the mythology in gay San Francisco — as in most other major cities — is that

there are more bottoms than tops. The truth is that most guys are probably versatile — able and willing to assume either the insertive top or receptive bottom position — to one degree or another. To the degree that it is practical, being on top may reduce your chances of being infected, all other factors being equal, and some negative guys who are versatile bareback only as tops, or restrict their bareback bottoming to guys they know who are also HIV-negative. One DPH/UCSF study found that being the insertive unprotected partner in anal sex may be five times less risky than being the receptive unprotected partner when the partner's status is not known. Moreover, the DPH's new emphasis on "condoms for HIV-positive tops with HIV-negative bottoms," and conversely, "condoms for HIV-negative bottoms with HIV-positive tops" clearly de-emphasizes condoms for HIV-negative tops with bottoms of any status. DPH's Katz recently asserted that if we could stop all HIV-positive tops and HIV-negative bottoms from having unprotected anal intercourse, "95 percent of the epidemic would go away."

• If you're HIV-positive, consider HAART, or highly active anti-retroviral therapy, that has not only dramatically cut into the death rate from AIDS nationwide, but has probably cut into the infection rate at the same time by reducing levels of virus in semen. "If we could get every HIV-positive man into treatment, we could reduce infections by driving down viral load," asserted Katz at the recent City Hall unveiling of his action plan.

• Ask what his viral load count is. If you're going to bareback with an HIV-positive guy, ask if he knows his viral load count. Is it below detectable levels or is it in the hundreds of thousands? If it is very low, this will not eliminate your risk of infection or re-infection, and you should not interpret this as a green light to toss caution to the wind, but it may reduce the likelihood of infection.

• Ask if he has tested for treatment-resistant strains. The dangers of barebacking between guys that are HIV-positive are more than theoretical. First, there is the danger of infections with diseases other than HIV. Second, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that infection with a "super virus" — a strain of HIV that has become resistant to currently available therapies — could render these therapies useless for the newly infected partner.

• To douche or not to douche? Within the barebacking subculture, douching is considered *de rigueur* for anyone thinking about getting topped, especially if they're going to a barebacking party. In his 1999 POZ article, Scarce wrote, "Douching or using enemas with harsh detergents can strip away protective cells in the rectum. If you use an enema before sex, try warm water. Be careful not to create tears inside or around the anus. Some believe lubes, especially oil- and silicon-based, can trap germs against the skin, increasing likelihood of infection. Douching with a spermicidal foam or homemade vinegar-and-water solution after sex may render some infectious agents inactive, but little research has been conducted in this area. If you are having sex with multiple partners over a short time, don't douche until after the last one. Try to urinate right after sex: Urine's acidity can clean out the urethra."

Still, "no one can tell me whether it's safe or not to douche before I get fucked 20 years into the epidemic," Scarce recently told the

B.A.R.

• Withdrawal before ejaculation. What little research has been done on risk factors for HIV infection associated with various sexual behaviors between men has not differentiated between whether HIV infection is more likely for bottoms if their top man cums inside, or not. Although this is perhaps the most common "harm reduction" technique practiced by gay men, researchers seem to assume that it's all the same. And indeed, for some barebacking men, the act of ejaculation while fucking, or taking a man's cum inside them, is a central goal of the whole sexual experience. "The thought that [my] being fucked is going to lead to a lovely load of sperm is terribly exciting," said Shelbi. Men who choose to bareback should be aware that there is almost always precum, or pre-ejaculate, from the penis well before actual ejaculation, and that this semen potentially could be infected with HIV. Nevertheless, common sense dictates that the lesser the volume of possibly HIV-infected semen in the rectum, the lesser the volume of HIV.

• Gently, boys, gently. "There are boys who will rough up their asses before they go out," said Scarce, referring to so-called "bug-chasers," guys who have decided they want to get infected for reasons beyond the scope of this article. With unprotected anal intercourse, HIV is most easily transmitted when semen infected with the virus comes in contact with the blood of the receptive partner or bottom, through the delicate lining of the rectal tissue. This tissue is relatively easy to tear, compared to the vagina or oral cavity. The size of the top's penis, and the vigor and duration of his thrusts, are factors to consider for bottoming barebackers. Rougher sex can be more dangerous for HIV infection. Fisting and inserting large dildos and other toys can also weaken and tear the rectal tissue, and if preceded or followed by raw anal-penile intercourse, toys and fisting can make it easier for HIV to enter the receptive partner's bloodstream.

• Post-exposure prophylaxis. If you think you may have just been exposed to HIV, there is a chance that a course of aggressive anti-HIV therapy could be of some benefit to you, and possibly could help protect you from infection. Contact your doctor immediately. For more information, go to <http://epi-center.ucsf.edu/PEP/PEPDPHSEX.html>.

• Pre-exposure prophylaxis? Noting that the concept was "real-life common in the 1970s" among gay men who would take antibiotics used to treat STDs, and then throw caution to the wind, Scarce spoke of people practicing pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, "borrowing meds from their friends and having an unsafe sex holiday." Don't try this at home.

• Plan your travels. "If I get fucked bare in Kansas, statistically speaking, it's not as dangerous as here," offered Scarce. Barebacking for HIV-negative guys is all about playing the odds. In San Francisco, estimates of the proportion of HIV-positive men vary. At the height of the epidemic, about half of the gay and bisexual men in San Francisco were HIV-positive. Many of these men have since died of AIDS-related conditions. Current estimates are around 30 percent, meaning that of every gay or bisexual man you pass on the street or hop into bed with, about one of every three is likely to be HIV-positive. These proportions are likely to be true across all adult age groups.

next page ►

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization—and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Christopher Robin Dubé
November 10, 1964 — August 16, 2000



Christopher Robin Dubé, 36, passed away Wednesday, August 16, in Santa Rosa. He is survived by his mother, Niree Primo; his siblings, Victoria Spivey and Diana Carey; his much adored basset hound, "Rupert," and many friends. There will be a memorial service for

Chris held in Santa Rosa. Please contact Kelli at (415) 552-4129 for more information.

Raymond P. Hermann
April 26, 1947 — August 10, 2000



The sky became a bit more crowded Thursday, August 10th as yet one more bright star was added to the heavens when Ray finally broke the shackles of his pain and physical torment to begin his eternal journey in God's realm.

A proud San Francisco native, Ray, the second of two children to the late Florence and Rudolph Hermann, was born in St. Luke's Hospital. He leaves behind his brother, Ken, and sister-in-law, Anne, of Tucson, Arizona, as well as three nieces and a nephew. Ray also leaves his devoted and loving partner of more than 12 years, Mark BeCraft, as well as his long-time friends David Stoll, Michael Polansky, Joe & Danny, Bud Cornell, and David Jones.

Ray grew up on the Peninsula and was an outstanding student. He earned a Bachelor of Science in physics at Stanford University in 1969, followed by a Master of Science at U. of Illinois. He continued on to earn his Doctor of Law from the University of Chicago in 1973. Ray then returned to California and settled in the LA area where he practiced law with one of the state's most prestigious firms, O'Melveny & Myers. After a seven-year apprenticeship, Ray turned down the offer of a partnership position at his firm and, in 1980, returned to the

city he loved, his native San Francisco, and practiced as an independent appellate attorney. Here, he earned great respect from fellow lawyers who praised his diligence, thoroughness, depth of research and the clarity of his writings and opinions. An associate and fellow lawyer, upon learning of Ray's death, called him "an outstanding attorney ... a lawyer's lawyer."

In 1988, Ray's world became complete when his partner, Mark, entered his life. They were a dynamic duo who also gave back to the city they adored.

As the specter of AIDS spread, Ray became active in several related charities including the AIDS Emergency Fund, AIDS Memorial Grove and Open Hand. He donated his legal services to the Coming Home Hospice program.

The disease increasingly took its toll on his own life. Mark is very grateful to Ray's doctors, especially Paul Isackson, who never gave up trying to help, and the staff of Positive Resources, whose assistance was an invaluable asset. Contributions to Positive Resources in Ray's name would be greatly appreciated.

Be at peace, dear friend ... you deserve no less.

Emil Petaja

Emil Petaja, a science fiction writer whose career spanned seven decades, died at his home in the Castro District of San Francisco on August 17. He was 85. Petaja was the author of 13 novels, and in 1995 was named the first-ever Author Emeritus by the Science Fiction Writers of America.

Petaja was a prolific short story writer during the 1940's and 1950's. His early efforts appeared in the leading pulp fiction magazines of the day, such

as *Weird Tales*, *Amazing Stories*, *Worlds of Tomorrow*, *Crack Detective Stories*, and *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. Some of his stories were later collected in "Starstruck and Other Fantastic Flotsam" (1971).

Born and raised in Montana, Petaja moved to California in the late 1930s. He immersed himself in the Los Angeles sci-fi scene and befriended the likes of Ray Bradbury — then still a teenager — as well as Forrest J. Ackerman, Henry Kuttner and other early figures. During this time, Petaja shared an apartment with his great friend Hannes Bok, the legendary fantasy artist.

Of Finnish descent, Petaja is best known for a popular series of novels based on the Kalevala, the Finnish epic poem. His mythological approach to science fiction and fantasy was discussed in scholarly papers and on websites devoted to the epic poem.

The soft spoken author was a lifelong film buff and collector of movie memorabilia. He made two short dramatic films, "Dread Return" in 1949, and "The Call" in 1950. His 1975 reference book, "Photoplay Edition," remains the only book on the subject of the movie tie-in books of the silent and early sound era. As an author, Petaja was an honored guest at the 1998 and 1999 San Francisco Silent Film Festivals at the Castro Theater — the only person so honored twice.

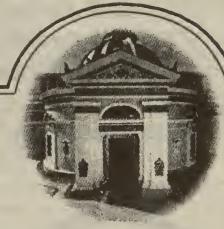
Emil Petaja is survived by his friend Dan Delany of San Francisco; his sister, Sonia Teague of Missoula, Montana; and two San Francisco grandnephews, Alan Teague and Tim Stein.

The Petaja Pages — a website devoted to the author — can be found at <http://www.pandorabox.com/petaja.html>

IN MEMORIAM

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Barebacking

◀ previous page

Circumcision. There have been a number of highly controversial studies suggesting that men who are uncircumcised may be more susceptible to HIV infection. Watch for more data on this; the jury is still out.

Use a lot of lube. Lubricants can help to protect the rectum from tears and abrasions that can make it easier for HIV to get into the bottom's bloodstream. Water-based lubes laced with nonoxynol-9, a spermicide, may afford some limited additional protection against HIV and other STDs. However, some people are allergic to N-9, and there have been a few studies suggesting that the chemical itself may irritate and create tiny holes in the rectal walls.

Watch the poppers and Viagra. "Dilated blood vessels in the rectum caused by sniffing poppers make it easier for viruses to enter your bloodstream, so if your partner ejaculates inside you, you're wide open for infection. Viagra

works similarly and poses similar risks by increasing blood flow to the pelvic region, facilitating erection, and to the rectum," noted Scarce in his POZ article.

Be aware of mind-altering drugs. Whether your drug of choice is available at the corner liquor store, from your neighborhood pot club, in the alley, or from your pharmacy, know your limits. Many people believe crystal methamphetamine and other "party" drugs are lighting the fire under the gay HIV epidemic in San Francisco. If you know that the last time you had sex, a drug or combination of drugs affected your judgment and put you and/or your partner at more risk than either of you were willing to accept, then don't do those drugs again. "Sex is very complicated," said Survive AIDS' Hank Wilson. "I think people are different at 10, 11 p.m., midnight, and when the bar closes."

Do the research. This is not to suggest that HIV-negative guys should volunteer for a study to see how many times an HIV-negative guy can get barebacked before he

becomes an HIV-positive guy, or whether it really is possible for an HIV-positive guy to get infected with a "super virus" that will hasten his demise. Rather, "do the research" means take responsibility for staying abreast of the latest science as well as the latest expert thinking on the sexual risks of infection with HIV or another sexually transmitted disease. Often, the research has simply not been done, in which case, common sense and instinct for self-preservation may have to be your guides. In any case, do not depend on any one source, and especially not the soothing words of a prospective partner. ▼

For referrals, or more information about HIV/AIDS, call the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at (415) 863-2437, or 800-367-AIDS. Next week, in the final part of "Barebacking, top to bottom," the Bay Area Reporter will take a closer look at the DPH/UCSF "11-point action plan," and community response to the plan.

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Momentum

by Jim Provenzano

Where do you keep your memories? Your best dunk shot, your finest tennis serve, your fastest lap? Where do we save our best gay sports moments?

For Federation of Gay Games co-President Sue Emerson, these questions have become a quest.

The affable Londoner was in town recently with her partner, Ilse Hahn, to visit with local athletes and reps from several GLBT teams.

They also visited the Gay Games Archives, located deep in the basement of the San Francisco Public Library, part of the many archives maintained by the Gay/Lesbian Center's General Collections Department.

Over 60 boxes of materials, ranging from lots of newspaper clippings (most of which are also available on microfilm) to flyers and photographs, recount some of the highlights of each Gay Games.

But with only two boxes of materials documenting the first historic event, "we really need some help in getting these years documented," said the 41-year-old federation official, who's also advising the Sydney 2002 organizers on properly storing their own documents and memorabilia-to-be.

According to archivist Tim Wilson, who's been working at the library since 1996, the collection, along with hundreds of other gay and lesbian files, is the most comprehensive group collection of Gay Games documents and memorabilia.

Included among the contracts, memos, and schedules, are rare medals, sheet music, and even a full uniform from Gay Games I.

"You can see how the federation logo grew over the years," Emerson noted as we perused vintage banners, pictures, and programs. Among the celebrities at earlier Games were Tina Turner, Rita Mae Brown, and of course, Games co-founder Tom Waddell.

Some of the items that are considered collectible are Gay Games pins, rugby shirts, T-shirts, posters, and even wristbands. Many of these items were advertised in gay publications through the 1980s, but are now rare finds.

Emerson hopes to develop these items into an exhibit in 2001 at the public library. This should serve as a cultural reminder and a warm-up to Gay Games VI, which will take place in Sydney the first week of November 2002.

Emerson and Hahn, 45, who



Federation of Gay Games delegate Ilse Hahn, left, and her partner, federation co-President Sue Emerson, were in town last week checking out Gay Games memorabilia at the San Francisco Public Library.

also a federation delegate, were surprised to find no documentation of the birth of Gay Games at a recent City Hall exhibit showcasing the history of San Francisco.

In order to supplement that absence with a Gay Games exhibit timed to coincide with a federation meeting in 2001, Emerson is hoping Bay Area residents who still own Gay Games memorabilia will loan or donate items, specifically from the earlier Gay Games. Few items exist from those days.

The library's Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center includes the popular James Hormel Collection, a selection of reference books that includes a variety of GLBT publications.

People interested in loaning or donating items can contact Jim Van Buskirk, program manager at the SF public library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco CA 94102, call (415) 557-4566, or e-mail jimv@sfp.lib.ca.us.

Sporty by the Bay

While most folks will be escaping next Labor Day weekend to backyard barbecues and vacation spots galore, some hardy GLBT sports folks will be having fun at Oakland's Laney College as part of the weekend's East Bay Gay Mardi Gras.

East Bay FrontRunners will have a run around Lake Merritt Sept. 2. For more info on them, visit their site at <http://www.mdc-multimedia.com/eblr/>

Wrestling and martial arts demonstrations, clinics and light competition will be offered by Golden Gate Wrestling and other GLBT Bay Area athletes on Sunday September 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.ggcw.org, visit the year-old

Stonewall 30 site at <http://www.stonewall30.org/index.html> or call Laney College.

Triangle Tai Kwan Do Club will host its first Shepard Martial Arts Seminar on September 3. The seminar will remember the late Matthew Shepard and will foster friendship and cooperation amongst all martial artists without exception.

The seminar will offer experienced martial artists as well as novices an opportunity to work with up to five different instructors and different martial arts styles. Each instructor will teach a one-hour seminar. Admission is \$10 for the day.

For additional information contact TTKDC at (510) 222-0551, or visit their Web site at <http://hometown.aol.com/ttkdc/index.html>.

Angel-o salad

If this weren't enough, the 19th Lesbigay Sports Day on Angel Island on Saturday, September 2 should provide even more athletic fun.

In conjunction with the FrontRunners, Team San Francisco will co-host this year's event. Bring your running shoes, bicycles, volleyballs, sunscreen, and food to share. Team SF will provide charcoal, picnic supplies and condiments. This is a majorly fun event. If you've never played tourist and taken a ferry or visited Angel Island, this is a perfect reason.

Meet at San Francisco's Pier 41 for the 8:30 a.m. ferry, which is a Blue and Gold Fleet charter. The last returning ferry is at 4:40 p.m. The group will be on the Drawsite Picnic Area just off Ayala Cove near the ferry landing.

Tickets are \$10 per person and are available at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street between 17th and 18th streets, (415) 431-0891.

If you cannot make it to A Different Light Bookstore, tickets will also be sold at the Saturday runs at SF FrontRunners and BayLands FrontRunners. You may also e-mail glenn.galang@att.net to make other arrangements.

Bring your sporting equipment and food to share. The potluck is organized as follows: Last name begins with the following letter, please bring: A-G - dessert, H-Q - main dish, R-Z - salad.

For additional Angel Island information, visit www.blueandgoldfleet.com, www.angelisland.org, www.angelsland.com, or email teams@sirius.com

Speaking of Team SF: the next general membership meeting is

next page ►

Save the Bowl!

Japantown Bowl is still under threat of closure. Please call or email the following public officials to show your disapproval of the September 20 closing by owners Kintetsu Corporation, who are planning to destroy the only 40-lane bowling alley in the Bay Area, and an historic site of Gay Games sports events.

The Board of Supervisors

Mabel Teng (Chair) (415) 554-4981, Mabel_Teng@ci.sf.ca.us

Alicia Becerril (415) 554-6488, Alicia_Becerril@ci.sf.ca.us

Sue Bierman (415) 554-6661, Sue_Bierman@ci.sf.ca.us

Michael Yaki (415) 554-7901, Michael_Yaki@ci.sf.ca.us

SF Redevelopment Agency Commissioners

Mark Dunlop, Darshan Singh, Benny Y. Yee, Ramon Romero,

Lynette Sweet, Leroy King at (415) 749-2400, or e-mail Commissioner_Secretary@ci.sf.ca.us

For more info, call the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California at (415) 567-5505. ▼

- Jim Provenzano

COMMUNITY NEWS

Juanita Owens

◀ page 1

think that I was asked because of the experiences that I bring, and my involvement in the political arena for 15 years and for 27 years as an educator."

Owens, 54, has been out as a lesbian since she was a teenager, and made her sexual orientation a central theme of her brief speech, and drew a sharp distinction between the Democrats and Republicans when it comes to gay rights.

"Al Gore supports our right to live, work, love, and pay taxes just like everyone else," she told the convention. "He will work to finally pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act - or ENDA - making it illegal to fire or discriminate against someone in the work place because of their sexual orientation. ... This does hap-

pen, and it must be stopped."

Owens noted that the vice president also mentioned his support for ENDA in his acceptance speech last Thursday night.

And while she argued for equal rights for gays, Owens repeatedly sought to make the point before the national television audience that gay and lesbian people want the same things as everyone else.

"Gays and lesbians care deeply about quality education, access to health care, a continued strong economy, preserving the environment, and keeping our neighborhoods safe," she told the delegates.

A member and past president of the San Francisco Board of Education, Owens is running against 10 men for the chance to represent District 5, where she has lived for several years.

Owens has been endorsed by Mayor Willie Brown, a fact that could help her among some of the

voters of the mostly progressive district that includes the Lower Haight, the Haight and Panhandle, Hayes Valley, Western Addition, as well as Cole Valley and the Inner Sunset.

She's also racked up endorsements from Supervisors Mark Leno and Leslie Katz, city Treasurer Susan Leal, and City Attorney Louise Renne. District 5 is one of the few districts that does not have an incumbent in the race. Supervisor Sue Bierman, who represents the area now, is prevented by term limits from seeking re-election.

Despite her inclusion in the convention, Owens, who holds a master's degree in counseling-psychology and a doctorate in education, recognizes that it is not good enough to be the first, and the future remains tenuous at best.

"We are on the edge," she said, adding that if the Republicans win the White House in November, "it

could set us back years."

"I know this city and I love this city," Owens said, turning to the local election, "and I'd like to say in all sincerity that I've prepared myself" for this job.

In addition to her experience on the Board of Education since 1996, Owens has also served on the Police Commission, and has worked as a college administrator, a counselor, and a teacher.

"All of those areas have to do with my ability to work with multitudes of different people and that requires negotiation skills and problems solving," she said. "I bring that to the Board of Supervisors."

Owens, who noted that she supported the Octavia Boulevard plan over the freeway renovation in last year's election, said that she will work on making city streets more friendly for bike commuters.

District 5 residents "want a clean area. They're tired of vagrancy, and they've really had it with homelessness," she said. "They want some compassionate steps taken."

She added that "Homeless programs include multiple services," including alcohol and drug addiction treatment programs, mental health services, job training, and health care programs.

"We need all of those programs to come together," Owens stated. "And we need to have a serious discussion of these services and how this money is spent."

Owens plans to open a campaign office soon in the Western Addition, and she plans to launch a Web site (www.juanitaowens.com).

"Let's clean up the neighborhood," she said. "We need to do things more together. We're a small city." ▼

Ralph Nader

◀ page 14

neighborhood and has seen Nader innumerable times on the street and in restaurants over several decades without ever witnessing the slightest indication that Nader might be gay.

Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) has led the anti-Nader charge in remarks in the press and an "open letter" to Nader distributed on gay political listservs and printed in gay newspapers.

Frank has reminded people that during the 1996 presidential campaign Nader referred to the Defense of Marriage Act as "go-nadal politics" and declined to comment on it. He has belittled Nader as having a weak track record on gay and lesbian issues.

Cokie Roberts raised the issue in an August 20 interview on ABC's *This Week*. Nader responded that his focus had been elsewhere,

"but I've never ignored gay and lesbian rights. My position on gay rights is way ahead of Gore's. It's summed up in one phrase: equal rights and equal responsibilities." It includes support for marriage, adoption, and military service.

Scott McLarty, a gay AIDS activist in Washington, D.C. and national media coordinator of the Green Campaign 2000, developed those further in an August 17 "open letter" to Frank. He recounted the criticism of Nader that came from Greens over the 1996 remark, as well as less than complete support on gay issues over the years from the Gore-Lieberman ticket.

McLarty said that third parties often have been the vehicle that pushed for social change in America. He returned to the question of Nader's participation in the presidential debates and closed by asking: "Mr. Frank, shouldn't we have at least one candidate in the debates who supports same-sex marriage?" ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

feat at the hands of his GOP opponent as even former Democratic Attorney General **John Van de Camp** (also a former Los Angeles D.A.) recently endorsed the Republican challenger, **Steve Cooley**.

Meanwhile, the chaos continues in the San Francisco District Attorney's office with the recent departure of one of the top female attorneys, **Kamala Harris**, who quit the "dysfunctional" office with a blast at both D.A. **Terence Hallinan** and his chief deputy, **Darrell Solomon** (who, incidentally, announced this week that he, too, was jumping the sinking ship). Harris, recognized as one of the star attorneys in Hallinan's morale-stricken office, left for a

top spot in the City Attorney's office. At press time we learned that yet another top female attorney has decided to leave Hallinan for greener pastures.

Finally, for all those who write and call telling me I'm all wet in saying that a vote for Green Party candidate Ralph Nader is merely a vote for George W. Bush and a vote against Al Gore, let me reprint a statement from **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**, one of the country's leading environmentalists, that appeared recently in the *New York Times*: "The threat of Ralph Nader's Green Party is that it could very well torpedo efforts to address the nation's most important environmental challenges. The threat, of course, is that Nader's candidacy could siphon votes from Al Gore, the environment's most visible champion

since **Theodore Roosevelt**, and lead to the election of George W. Bush. While I admire Nader's high-minded ideals, his suggestion that there is no difference between Gore and Bush is irresponsible. On the environment, the difference is fundamental; it reaches deep into their philosophies and records, showing most recently in their choice of running mates: Dick Cheney's anti-environmental votes in Congress extended even to opposing the Clean Water Act, while Joe Lieberman has staunchly supported strong environmental legislation and even written some of it. In fact, a vote for Nader is a vote for Bush, and environmentalists who join his personal crusade risk marginalizing the conservation movement."

And how was your week? ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Saturday, September 9, at 3 p.m. at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th.

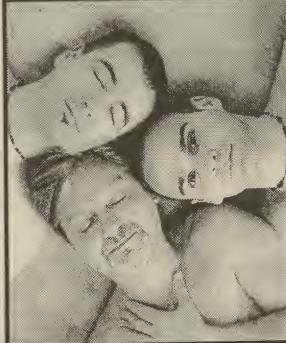
X marx

If you're expecting some coverage of the corporate event known as X Games, you'll be pleased or at least not at all surprised to note that after surveying the traffic glut and broadcast glorification of these once-unique sporting events that on any other day are outlawed, I instead chose to roam with a herd of cycling delinquents,

a few queers among them.

Zooming up the ramps of the revamped Federal Building with metal studs meant to divert skateboarders, the cyclists found it an easy course. Moving on and off ramps and steps around City Hall and (hello again) the public library, the herd, inspired by the X Games, headed south into SOMA, where several dozen traffic laws were jubilantly defied.

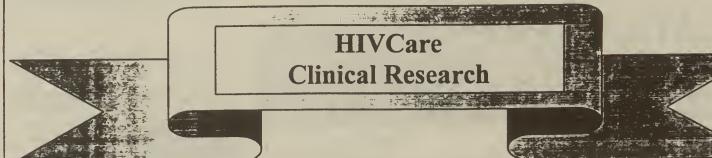
We retired to a parking lot where I was given rudimentary instruction on stunt cycling, whereupon I promptly fell on my butt. There was no simulcast, no Web chats, and no tie-in products, but a good time was had by all. ▼

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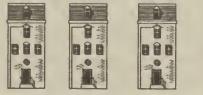
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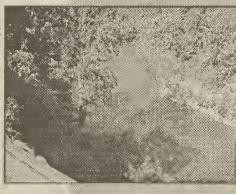
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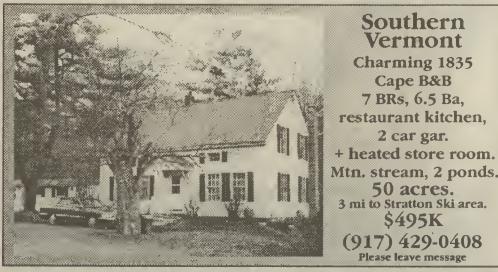


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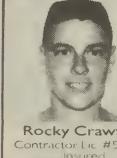
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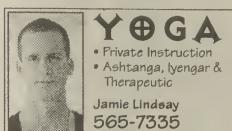
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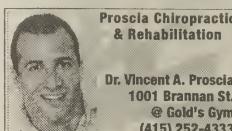
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STATEMENT FILE NO. 242677
The following person(s) are doing business as Mayhem Entertainment/Records, Ebene, Baller Publishing, 750 La Playa #718, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eric Robles. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 8/09/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/09/2000.

AUGUST 17, 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 242728
The following person(s) are doing business as Clarity Skincare, 2001 Van Ness Avenue #407, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jill C. Ferrell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 8/12/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/12/2000.

AUGUST 17, 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 242656
The following person(s) are doing business as Ontherail, 1011 23rd Street #10, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Maria Cleveland. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/27/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/08/2000.

AUGUST 17, 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 242824
The following person(s) are doing business as New Pickle Circle, 775 Frederick Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation non profit, signed Patrick Oshon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/01/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/15/2000.

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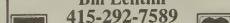
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Women's Super Lightheavyweight
Champion Lucia Rijker is portrayed in
Katya Bankowsky's film, 'Shadow Boxers.'
page 34

Muscles to the max
'Dirty Pictures' examines
Tom of Finland's art.
page 37



Butterfly to hermit
Tadié's 'Marcel Proust,'
biography of the decade.
page 36



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 30 • No. 34 • 24 August 2000

BAYAREADER

An interview with Lilly Wust, the real 'Aimée' of 'Aimée & Jaguar'

Dangerous romance

by Mark J. Huisman

Juliane Köhler as Lilly Wust dances with Maria Schrader as Felice Schragenheim in Max Färberböck's *Aimée & Jaguar*

Ziegfeld Films

Singer Cyndi Lauper livens up 'The Opportunists'

This girl wants more than just fun

by Brandon Judell

Cyndi Lauper is back with a vengeance. Clairol's favorite pop diva, the one who trilled female masturbation into a Top Ten hit with "She Bop," has a new recording contract. E.A.R. (Edel America Records) will be releasing her latest single in October, with a full CD to follow in 2001.

But in a New York City hotel suite, Cyndi, along with Christopher Walken, are not talking music. They're pushing *The Opportunists*, a small indie film to be released this week. It's directed by Sundance Film Makers Lab protégé Myles Connell, and shot by renowned cinematographer Teodoro Maniaci. (Maniaci, if you recall, caused a small furor for PBS with his documentary *One Nation Under God*, in which he uncovered the doings of Exo-

page 39 ►



Cyndi Lauper plays Sally Mahon in Myles Connell's *The Opportunists*

Aimée and Jaguar were pet names that only Felice and I used with one another," recalls Lilly Wust. "No one else used them. Our friends knew about the relationship, but it was never discussed."

Wust ("Aimée") was a German homemaker in 1943, married to an Army officer with whom she had four children, when she fell in love with Felice Schragenheim ("Jaguar"), an underground operative who also happened to be Jewish. Their relationship is chronicled in Max Färberböck's brilliant new film, *Aimée & Jaguar*, opening Friday for a two-week run at the Castro Theatre.

"Aimée was the name of a popular actress from the time, someone Felice happened to know," Wust says. "Jaguar was just a name I devised for Felice. I always thought she was very sleek, very catlike."

A vision in white, from her neatly pinned hair and white sweater to her slacks and new sneakers, Wust excuses herself to an adjoining room and returns wearing a shiny string of rainbow-colored beads about her neck. After thanking a visitor for his welcome in clipped but clear English, she alights on a sofa and lights a cigarette, the old-world signal that one is now ready for conversation.

"Felice was very elegant, very lively, very meticulous," Wust recalls of their first meeting, arranged by a mutual friend at a café near Berlin's zoo. "And she flirted with me right away. But I didn't think at all that we would know one another. Not at all." But that changed rather quickly.

"Our friend Ula used to work for me, caring for my children in the evening," Wust says. "One evening I noticed Felice was getting nervous. I realized Felice was waiting for her

page 37 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

First Look Pictures

OUT THERE

**by Roberto Friedman
and the Masked Avenger**

So now it's official: The Hollywood lesbian poster couple that was TV lead **Ellen DeGeneres** and actress **Anne Heche** have split up for good. Out There does not snicker, since Ellen and Anne lasted about as long as any hetero Hollywood couple — or longer. Three and a half years of bliss, that's about par for high-profile lesbian alignments, isn't it? The parting was said to be "amicable," but then they always say that.

AP reported that Heche was hospitalized after wandering up to a rural home appearing dazed and confused, only hours after her breakup with DeGeneres became public. Shades of celebrity loonie and erstwhile "Lois Lane" **Margot**

Kidder!

Heche apparently parked her car along a highway last Saturday and then walked about a mile to the house in Cantua Creek, where she knocked on the front door and made strange statements to the occupants, said Fresno County sheriff's spokescreature **Lt. Merrill Wright**.

Sheriff's deputies took her to University Medical Center, according to reports. Two days later she was jetting off to Toronto, where her new project with hunkilicious **Denzel Washington** was filming. Craazy!

Pillow talk

Speaking of shelf life, we hear that producer **Marc Huestis** shelled out some big bucks and bought himself a new mattress and box spring (proving once again that Out There will talk to

anyone about absolutely anything). He kept the old set in his living room, but finally decided to get rid of it. He called and asked our source, "**Deep Mattress**," to help him dispose of it.

Deep M asked what he wanted to do with it, and the Hostess jokingly floated the idea of calling up the **Gay & Lesbian Historical Society** and donating the whole set as a historical monument. To quote Mr. H, "I've had sex with a lot of famous people on this bed!"

We'll wait for the romp-and-tell book.

Pool sharks

Apparently the third time was the charm at The Third Annual Bad Boys Pool Party earlier this month. Hundreds of guests lined up to fork over \$65 to rub elbows and other body parts with their favorite erotic superstars. Once again, strawberry blond **Will Clark** officiated.

Latino superstar **Jeff Palmer** whipped the crowd up into a frenzy with his "autograph signing" session. Probably the hairiest man on hand was Colt model **Carl Hardwicke**. The large rectangular swimming pool was so packed with hunks that some bad boys were forced to take a dip in a decorative fountain to cool off.

Each year the event shifts to another location to avoid annoy-

ing the neighbors excessively. The first party was high atop the Hollywood Hills at a palm-fringed estate. Last year it was held in exclusive Mount Olympus amid a bone-chilling frosty spell. This year it was held on Orlando Street near Melrose on one of the hottest days of the year.

Canadian-born **Blake Harper** served up beer and soft drinks. Up-and-comer **Tony Donovan** couldn't be pried loose from slab o' man **Zak Spears**. Artist **Jon Planas** was back for the third time, body-painting a pair of willing erotic stars.

Their bodies were his breathing, squirming canvases.

All proceeds benefit the **Joey Stefano AIDS Fund**.

Tom thumbs

This week in our pages, arts writer **Jim Nawrocki** reviews the newly published study of gay erotic artist **Tom of Finland**, *Dirty Pictures* (St. Martin's Press). Out There settled down with the latest copy of *Dispatch*, the newsletter for the Tom of Finland Foundation. We enjoyed reading all about Tom's Bar, a special evening at the El Rey in LA, where guests played "a variety of carnival-style games: The Human Dartboard, Dildo Ring Toss, and perhaps the most popular, Stick the Rubber on the Porn Star." The latter attraction featured the bodies of adult film stars including **York Powers**, **Joshua Scott** and **Steve Scott**.



Adult film stars Tony Donovan and Zak Spears share a tender moment.

which Out There wonders, Can there possibly be a more bourgeois market than *Out*?

Gabbana on Dolce: "Why do I love Domenico? Because he enjoys life."

Dolce on Gabbana: "We try not to confuse love with sex."

Among the fashion spreads and perfume scratch 'n' sniffs in the September *Vanity Fair* movie star **Steve McQueen** hanging out



Steve McQueen in 1964

in his BVDs and dress socks in his Sherry-Netherland Hotel suite, NYC, 1962, in a very candid shot by photographer **William Claxton**; hottie actor **Colin Farrell**'s take on *Gladiator*: "Russell Crowe could get up, pull his pants down, and take a shit, and you'd be blown away" — and we thought our kind had peculiar tastes; and the already famous fall Gucci spread, in which you can tell the male model's religion through his skin-tight pants. As we used to ask in the junior high boys' showers, "Is he a helmet or an anteater?" Answer: Clearly, he's a helmet.

Butch it up

Reuters reports that Fox Television's upcoming **John Goodman** "gay" comedy finally has a name, *Normal*, *Oho*.

The Carsey-Werner-produced show had been known alternately as *Don't Ask, The John Goodman Project* and (at least in some circles) *Butch*.

Goodman will still play Butch, a gay dad who returns home to live with his sister and her kids.

His series is not the only new fall comedy to get Normal-ized. ABC has a **Jon Cryer** vehicle called *The Trouble With Normal* that was originally titled *People Who Fear People*.



Soul music

"Yo! I may be old-school, but I'm no old fool!" declares **Posdnous** of Amityville, Long Island hip-hop group **De La Soul** on their new record, *Art Official Intelligence Vol. 1: Mosaic Thump* (Tommy Boy).

It's the first installment in what is promised to be a trilogy, to be released over the course of the next year. De La's **Dave**, **Posdnous** and **Maseo** are joined on *Thump* by guest luminaries like **Busta Rhymes**, **Chaka Khan**, and **Mike D** and **Ad-Rock** from the Beastie Boys. In the course of some mighty grooves, De La get their licks in about the guns 'n' mayhem lyrics of gangsta rap, and loudly proclaim, "Hip-hop cultcha need a diaper change!"

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The newsletter includes an illustration of a Tom-esque hunk beckoning under the slogan, "Tom Wants You!" Judging from his costume (boots and nothing else) and his welcoming gesture, we think he has something else in mind than saluting dear old Uncle Sam.

Out of the (fashion) closet

We heard it first in *NY Times* columnist **Ginia Bellafante**'s "Front Row" dispatches: fashion designers **Domenico Dolce** and **Stefano Gabbana** come out about their 19-year relationship in the September cover story of *Out* magazine.

"Even though people in the fashion business know who is gay and who isn't, there aren't a great number of designers willing to talk about it," *Out* editor-in-chief **Brendan Lemon** told the *Times*. "When it comes to speaking openly about homosexuality in the fashion world, we've basically got **Tom Ford** and **Jean Paul Gaultier**."

Ford, whom Out There readers will remember defending the shamelessly phallic fall Gucci ad campaign with the classic remark, "I am a man. I have a penis," came out in the July issue of *W*.

"Front Row" reports that Lemon is "aiming for a more bourgeois market for *Out*," to

THEATRE

Terrence McNally mania

'Master Class,' 'Ragtime,' 'Corpus Christi,' 'Dead Man Walking'

by Richard Dodds

Here's to the talented Mr. McNally. In the coming weeks, there will be a convergence of stage works by Terrence McNally that will display the gay playwright's diverse talents in diverse venues.

At TheatreWorks, the high-polish regional theater in the South Bay, McNally's Tony Award-winning play *Master Class* starts its run on Aug. 30. Beginning Sept. 26 at the Orpheum Theatre, home to the big touring Broadway musicals, McNally's adaptation of *Ragtime* will be given performances. The San Francisco Opera will offer the world premiere of *Dead Man Walking*, with a libretto by McNally, on October 7. And the New Conservatory Theatre Center will launch its subscription series of gay plays on Oct. 11 with his controversial *Corpus Christi*.

'Master' builder

Master Class finds McNally in his role as opera queen as he dishes the dirt on Maria Callas. The future playwright grew up listening to the great diva on the radio in Texas, and as a young man saw many of her performances. He was also present for some of the master classes she gave at Juilliard beginning in 1971, and these sessions — along with a good deal of artistic license — inspired the play.

"This is not a documentary," McNally told USA Today in 1995. "It's a play by me in which Maria Callas is a character."

Indeed, the Maria Callas of *Master Class* who reveals herself by berating and humiliating her students has little to do with the reserved, polite, and slightly boring Callas preserved in recordings of those classes.

"Callas had an inner sadness," McNally said. "That's the area I'm writing about."

Zoe Caldwell played Callas on Broadway to a rapturous response, and New York successors Patti LuPone and Dixie Carter also had their fans. A less convincing Faye Dunaway brought a tour to San Francisco in 1997.

It is the star of a subsequent tour who will take the role at TheatreWorks in Mountain View. Charlotte Cornwell is a veteran of the Royal Shakespeare Company who performed here with Ian McKellen in the RSC's production of *Richard III*. TheatreWorks isn't taking too many chances with its production of *Master Class*, also hiring Thomas Caruso, the director of that tour, as well as two of its featured actors.

"I think this is the most auto-biographical play I've ever written," McNally told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1995. "It has my real feelings about art. I've spent my whole life preparing to write this play."

For ticket information on *Master Class*, call (650) 903-6000.

Playing a rag

McNally won a Tony Award for writing the libretto for *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and he was the first of the creative team hired for *Ragtime* by the same producer.

McNally had read E.L. Doctorow's sprawling novel when it was first published, and reread it



Charlotte Cornwell as opera diva Maria Callas in *Master Class*

before signing on. "After a couple of chapters," he told *Newday* in 1998, "I could really see the musical possibilities. You have to hear music in a piece. If someone had asked me to make a musical out of *Pygmalion*, I'd have said, 'No way.' I could never see those people singing. But these I could."

It eventually fell to lyricist Lynn Ahrens and composer Stephen Flaherty to write the songs, a high-profile assignment for the creators of the intimate *Once on This Island*.

Doctorow had filled his novel with famous and fictional characters from the turn of the century to create an overlapping portrait of the white establishment, a restless black population, and the waves of immigrants arriving at that time. While the book develops the real-life characters as much as the fictional ones, McNally chose to focus on the fictional characters and to employ the historical figures as icons.

"I think [Doctorow] would have liked every chapter of the book to be in the show — and then you'd have a 45-hour musical," McNally said. "No writer likes to have his work cut. I could only hope that I had instinctively made the right choices."

Actually, Doctorow has said he appreciated the way the musical's adapters went about their business. The musical, he said, demonstrates "honor and devotion to the book, which they treated as their Bible."

For tickets to *Ragtime*, call 512-7770.

Passion play

Speaking of the Bible, McNally had a brush with a Salman Rushdie-like controversy when word of his play *Corpus Christi* was leaked in the press. It all started in 1998, when *The New York Post* published an article with the headline, "Gay Jesus May Star on B'way." Before long, the Manhattan Theatre Club was targeted for destruction, its staff for execution, and McNally for "extermination."

The Manhattan Theatre Club, where many of McNally's plays had premiered, promptly pulled the plug on the play out of fear for

voice," he said, adding, "I'm being tried by rumor."

The theater reversed itself, and the play opened in the fall of 1998. Dueling protesters greeted opening-night audiences, who had to pass through metal detectors to get to their seats. But after the reviews started appearing, and the play's actual story line was revealed, the controversy seemed to evaporate.

The central character in the play is named Joshua, who grows up in Corpus Christi, Tex., which happens to be McNally's hometown. Persecuted for being different by teachers and schoolmates, he moves to a larger city, where he is joined by a corps of disciples who believe in his messages of love. One of those disciples is his high school boyfriend, who ultimately betrays him when he returns home to Corpus Christi.

The play has modern variations on such biblical set pieces as the Nativity, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Last Supper. It's a serious piece, but McNally can't fully hide his sense of humor.

When Joshua hits a hypocritical priest, an apostle notes that he had earlier taught them to turn the other cheek. "I must have been in a very good mood," he retorts. "Don't take everything I say so seriously."

Ed Decker is directing the West Coast premiere of *Corpus Christi*. For more information, call 861-8972.

More Bible stories

Songwriter Maury Yeston has

been represented in the Bay Area in recent weeks with *Phantom* in San Jose and *Titanic* in San Francisco. Now the East Bay gets into the act with a Yeston title that will be known only to dedicated musical-comedy fans.

The Willows Theatre is offering what is only the second professional production of *In the Beginning*, a musical that takes an irreverent look at biblical stories and personalities. It opens this week at the Concord theater, with Kevin Blackton heading the cast as God in director Richard Elliott's production.

In the Beginning was born six years after Yeston won a Tony Award for *Nine*. The book was originally supplied by Larry Gelbart (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*), and the musical was then titled 1-2-3-4-5 (after the first five books of the Bible). After a workshop production at the Manhattan Theatre Club in 1988, the show was reworked, with David W. Hahn taking over book-writing duties. It was renamed *History Loves Company* before the creators settled on *In the Beginning*. The show received its world premiere at the Maine State Music Theatre in 1998.

For more information, call (925) 798-1300. ▼

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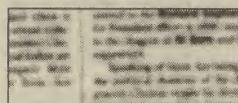
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Big voices on the small screen

'La Traviata from Paris' on 'Great Performances'

by Stephanie von Buchau

Operatic sex is what happens when a particular voice singing a particular melody turns you on to the point where you fall in love with a singer who may be fat and balding — like Luciano Pavarotti or Chris Merritt, whom I thought was sex-on-a-stick when he was singing charismatically.

The bottom line in opera — until now — has never been about how a singer looked or even about how perfectly they sang — look at the division of opinion on a beauty like Kiri Te Kanawa, or a big

voice like Jane Eaglen — but whether they have the personality to make us respond and to believe in what we are hearing.

Televised opera, however, presents a different perspective on the side of looks, because you just can't take close-ups of sweaty singers popping their uvulae at the camera. A couple of years ago, a European production of *Tosca from Rouen* tried to present Puccini's melodrama at the exact times of day and in the precise locations of the libretto. It was successful, in my opinion mainly because of Plácido Domingo. Whatever Domingo's vocal compromises these days, the Spanish tenor has gobs of personality and sex appeal all out of proportion to his rumpled, teddy-bear exterior.

The young tenor they are calling Domingo's successor, José Cura, now stars in another televised opera, *La Traviata from Paris* (KQED, *Great Performances*, Sunday, August 27 at 9 p.m.) It, too, is successful without being quite the operatic love affair you should have in the dark at the War Memorial. Verdi's only contemporary piece, *La Traviata* failed at its 1853 premiere, partly because it was performed in modern dress. Opera audiences, then as now, preferred costume drama. Sumptuously photographed by Oscar-winner Vittorio Storaro, *La Traviata from Paris* has been updated to the *Belle Époque*, and set in four real-life venues.

Act 1, Violetta's party, takes place in the Hotel Boisgelin, now the Italian Embassy in Paris. Flora's third act party is at the Petit Palais (though oddly in the courtyard most of the time, rather than indoors), while Violetta and Alfredo's second act retreat is filmed at Marie Antoinette's *Hameau de la Reine* in Versailles. Violetta dies on the île St.-Louis, within sound of Notre Dame's mournful bells. I recommend this telecast if you love the City of Lights.

Read their lips

Musically, it's not bad either, as I was able to check by listening to the CD excerpts on Teldec. Without the visuals to distract, we hear a smartly paced, orchestrally vivid reading by conductor Zubin Mehta, who was sequestered with his RAI Orchestra in one room, visible to the singers by TV monitor. The press notes are a little vague, but I think it is a live recording, as no "lip sync" is visi-



Roda Film

Eteri Gvazava co-stars with José Cura in *La Traviata from Paris*.

ble.

For the role of Violetta, "the strayed one" who tries to live down her sordid past as a *grande horizontale*, producer Andrea Andermann discovered a young Russian soprano, Eteri Gvazava, toiling in an obscure German opera house. She's very comely, slender and openly expressive, though at this point it is not acting but gesticulating. Director Giuseppe Patroni Griffi should have restrained her arms in "Sempre libera." The waving detracts from the fact that she actually can sing the coloratura and is smart enough to eschew the unwritten E-flat at the end of the act. She may not have enough power for "Amami, Alfredo" in a large opera house, but that is not an issue

here.

What you don't get from Gvazava — unusual in a Russian singer of her generation — is soul. It's too bad that she is dying young and unloved — or so she thinks — but I really didn't care. Part of the problem is Cura's Alfredo. The guy is gorgeous if you like bedroom eyes, a strong nose and a well-trimmed beard. He even appears provocatively in an undershirt at one point. Yum. But, if you remember Cura's Don José in the SFO *Carmen* at the Civic Auditorium in 1996, you'll recall that while he is undeniably sexy, he's also so self-absorbed that he doesn't have much chemistry with his leading lady, Olga Borodina solved that by kicking him in the shins. Gvazava is too ladylike and inexperienced to demand the tenor's wandering attention.

In this heavily-mirrored production, Cura often seems content to sing to his own reflection, obviously the prettiest face in the room. When Violetta spends much of her death scene cowering along the baseboards of her apartment, I kept wishing Cura would pick her up and put her in bed, though that was probably the director's choice. Also, Cura's strenuous vocalism is more suited to verismo than to the elegant Verdian style of this opera. Still, he sings better than Rolando Panerai, a venerable 75-year-old Germont, who should have been left in retirement. At least they cut his cabaret; otherwise, the score is played mostly intact.

La Traviata from Paris is no more or less successful than any other attempt to make opera seem like the movies; but it is beautiful to look at. ▼



Roda Film

Eteri Gvazava as Violetta, "the strayed one."

THEATRE



"I think people should pick their own lifestyle": Nanette Fabray

The whippersnapper & the grumpy old man

'Visiting Mr. Green' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

Once you grasp the situation in the opening scene of *Visiting Mr. Green*, you'll have a pretty clear notion of the closing scene. True, you may not know its details, but its spirit isn't hard to predict.

Jeff Baron's play, now at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, follows the familiar formula of two disparate individuals, thrown together, who gradually and warily find mutual respect. But if the play is something of a throwback, Baron has added a mild contemporary zinger: one of the protagonists is gay.

Visiting Mr. Green had a successful off-Broadway run in 1997, with Eli Wallach as an elderly Jewish widower who finds his comfortably unhappy life upset by a gay yuppie who has been thrust into his world. At New Conservatory, the play is a vehicle for Dean Goodman, a veteran Bay Area critic and actor who has lately made a specialty of playing elderly Jewish characters.

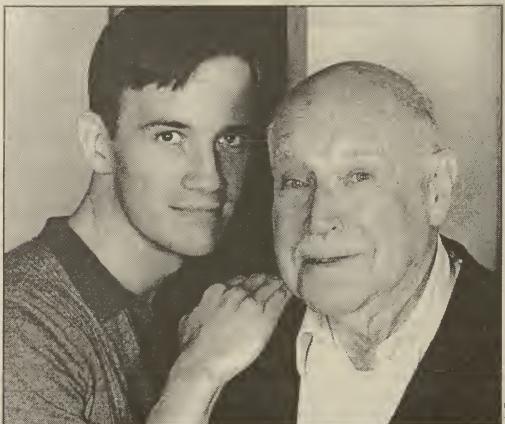
Most recently, Goodman starred in *Horowitz and Mrs. Washington*, in which an elderly Jewish widower and a no-non-

sense black nurse overcome mutual distrust to form an uplifting bond. In the case of *Visiting Mr. Green*, substitute Ross Gardiner for Mrs. Washington, and you're in pretty much the same ballpark.

The natty, mostly closeted Ross Gardiner, with a junior executive position at American Express, has been assigned to weekly community-service visits to Mr. Green's New York apartment (realistically rendered by Rob Vogt) after nearly plowing into him with his car. Needless to say, Mr. Green doesn't appreciate this whippersnapper in his life, but as both sides reveal suppressed demons and after some heavy-duty emotional sparks fly, the characters emerge ready for reentry into life.

There can be something comforting in formula writing, and after several opening scenes of languorous exposition, Baron shows a solid touch with the style of the genre and the ability to push emotional buttons without seeming manipulative. After a slow start, director Arturo Catricala's production also revs up into a dramatically satisfying experience.

Likewise, Aaron Brace as Ross Gardiner and Goodman as Mr. Green seem somewhat stilted in the early moments, yet ultimately



Aaron Brace and Dean Goodman in *Visiting Mr. Green*

Show business survivor

Nanette Fabray appears in 'Pippin' at YBC

by Richard Dodds

Nanette Fabray, who danced with Fred Astaire, clowned with Sid Caesar, and played Mary Tyler Moore's TV mom, may be pushing 80, but she's still got guts.

"I don't think the government should stick its nose into anybody's business, whether it's abortion or same-sex marriage," she said when a recent conversation moved into politics. "I think people should pick their own lifestyle, and nobody has the right to tell you it's right or wrong."

The famously perky entertainer opens next week in *Pippin* at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, playing the high-kicking

granny role for the newly formed San Francisco Musical Theatre Company. Fabray calls herself a "free thinker," and behind a vivacious comic personality there lives a quiet warrior.

There was a lovely moment on the old Carol Burnett show when guest star Fabray sang "Over the Rainbow" while interpreting the lyrics in sign language that captured the song's potent imagery. For Fabray, who had come out years before about her own hearing loss, this moment that day seems innocuous was a major breakthrough.

"Carol had to fight for it," the San Francisco-bound Fabray said recently. "CBS didn't want her to do it, so she just sneaked it on the program. Since it was done in front of a live audience, she said to me, 'Nanette, go out there and do your song.' It was a big breakthrough to show that deaf people didn't have something to hide."

Fabray, whose hearing was eventually restored through a series of operations, had paid a price for her belief that openness was better than secretive shame. After hiding her deteriorating hearing from her first husband, and seeing the already rocky marriage crumble under the stress, she became involved in the 1950s with schools and organizations for the deaf.

"It gradually crept into the papers, and then articles started saying, 'What is she trying to do, ask for sympathy when she doesn't

have a hit show?' It made me angry. Look, if I had known anyone under the age of Bernard Baruch or Eleanor Roosevelt who wore hearing aids, it would have been a comfort to me. I thought that maybe I could be some help to others by showing that you can be young and successful and imperfect. In

next page ▶

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A real life knock-out

'Shadow Boxers' opens at the Roxie

by David Lamble

It was 1995, and filmmaker Katya Bankowsky knew she had to start shooting. Officials of the Golden Gloves had just sanctioned fights between female boxers. Bankowsky knew from her own experience that hundreds if not thousands of women had been waiting for this moment, waiting to test their mettle in the ring. Hell, Bankowsky was prepared not only to capture the moment, but damn it all, she was going to put on gloves herself! Five years later, the resulting film, *Shadow Boxers*, scores a knock-

out in its depiction of a pivotal moment in the history of the modern women's athletic movement, as well as delivering a dramatic portrait of the movement's potentially biggest star, a woman hailed as pound-for-pound the fiercest warrior of her gender, a woman who only spars with men, Women's Super Lightweight Champion Lucia Rijker.

The first act depicts a chaotically exhilarating time when women from all walks of life (including one banged-up literary agent) slugged it out for the honor of being "film at 11," and getting one of those Day-Glo yellow *Daily News* T-shirts. "Why wouldn't I

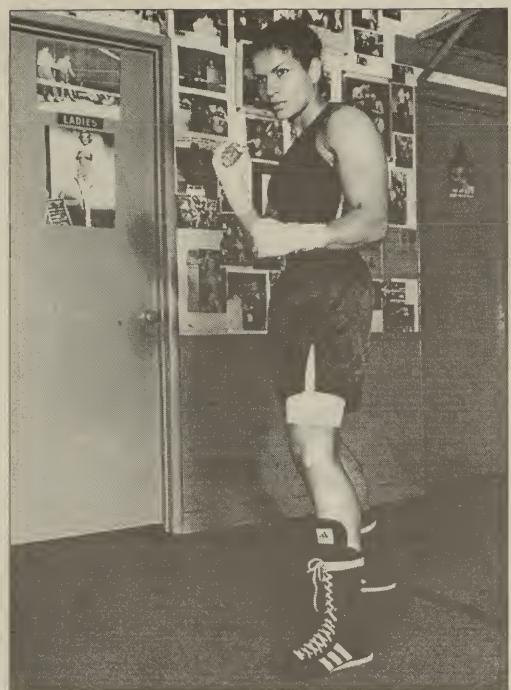
want to make history?" exclaims a former gymnast when asked the big *why* question that the guys never get asked.

But why quickly turns to who, and it becomes clear that Bankowsky is out to tell a heroic story, but she's picky about who qualifies for the role. A recent trend has the daughters of famous fighters jumping over each other like spawning salmon to proclaim themselves champions of the world ("Champions of what?" quibbled HBO *Real Sport's* Bryant Gumbel). *Shadow Boxers* is a powerful argument that it takes more than being the daughter of Ali to call yourself "The Greatest."

Shadow Boxers has a disturbing split-screen quality about its depiction of women beating up women — a losing boxer describes the out-of-body feeling of being out cold in the ring as helpful strangers wobble in and out of focus, and her sister freaks out to the event on TV. The mayhem becomes more stylized when the film's attention shifts to Lucia Rijker's campaign to get the male boxing establishment to take her seriously. Rijker, whose only strong female friend appears to be her white Dutch mother — the same large ears, arched eyebrows, and a fighting spirit (her black father is not seen on screen) — early on realized her tomboy fantasies of becoming a world champion kickboxer. Then, having pulverized all her possible female opponents, she opted for a radical makeover, moving to LA and finding the men who would train her to knock out women.

Price club

The film is visually enhanced by the shrewd and expensive decisions to opt for film over video and to have cinematographer Tony Wolberg (assisted by Anthony Hardwick) employ the tricks he learned at the knee of Jeff Price, whose artful blend of black-and-white and color brought a Calvin Klein look of smoldering sexuality to Bruce Weber's saucy portrait of Golden Gloves champ Andy Minsker. *Broken Noses'* strategy was to eroticize the teenage boys in Minsker's suburban boxing club and contrast their peaches-and-cream and remarkably non-battered faces with the filmmaker's obsession with



Champion boxer Lucia Rijker in *Shadow Boxers*

Minsker's resemblance to the late horn phenom Chet Baker. Bankowsky employs a hip-hop club track (by Argentine DJ Zoel) to package Rijker's hard body and intimidatingly candid Queen Latifah-esque, take-charge personality. As with *Broken Noses*, *Shadow Boxer*'s chic photography deconstructs and eroticizes ring violence. At one point, this fine-tooled female fighting machine dispatches her strongest and cutest opponent, Marcela Acuna, with boxing's Stealth Bomber, a painful punch to the liver.

Gay porn sometimes uses a boxing spoof as a prelude to the money shot. *Shadow Boxers* ups the ante, expecting us to get off to the real thing.

•

Shadow Boxers' major weakness is a lack of political perspective on just what the Faustian bargain with male boxing will achieve for the women's sports movement. After seeing *Shadow Boxers*, BAR readers should also rent *Red Rain*, Laura Plotkin's candid 1999 portrait of openly lesbian East Bay fighter Gina "Boom Boom" Guido, who does battle with homophobia as well as other women in the ring. Curiously, *Shadow Boxers* contains no on-screen mention of Rijker's tempestuous

relationship with former boxer Billy Kean, which appears to have founders on the mutual insecurities of two fighters locked in erotic and physical combat.

Bankowsky gets promoter Bob Arum to admit he had no interest in women boxers until he saw a tape of Rijker in action. Arum, who along with rival Don King owns everyone worth owning in male boxing, may have also been motivated by King's acquisition of American Christy Martin — a Martin/Rijker match-up might be women's boxing's Ali/Frasier. Rijker's key ring relationship is with her star trainer Freddie Loach (a Peter Sellers lookalike with his owlish glasses), who is seen treating her with all the serious attention he gives the males in his stable.

Perhaps the film's most telling and funny ode to *Broken Noses* takes place in Rijker's visit to an otherwise all-male boxing camp. Treated like one of the boys, Rijker kvetches about needing her Buddhist meditation techniques to endure loud music, sexual innuendo, and the street boys' habit of peeing in the shower. ▼

Shadow Boxers plays the Roxie Cinema August 25-31.

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Nanette Fabray

◀ page 33

those days, remember, everybody was supposed to be perfect."

Baby Nan's big break

Fabray learned from an early age the importance of making a good impression. Her stage-struck mother billed her as Baby Nan at age 3 and pursued that elusive big break that would make her daughter a star. Fabray was a teenager when her first professional job came along. It began in Los Angeles with legendary director Max Reinhardt, and ended unceremoniously in San Francisco when the producer absconded with the receipts.

The big break did come soon enough, when Fabray found herself on Broadway at age 18 in a musical revue titled *Meet the People*. At the same time, she began studying opera at Juilliard, but after a few months of early classes,

she dropped out. They interfered with her nightlife.

"I loved to go dancing at the Stork Club or El Morocco," she said. "So I just decided to do Broadway shows rather than being an opera singer."

One of her next gigs was playing the Celeste Holm role in the touring company of *Bloomer Girl*, which brought her back to San Francisco in the '40s. It also gave the city an unexpected look at the feisty Fabray.

"My understudy and I rented a little apartment on top of some hotel, and when we moved in, there weren't any curtains up yet," she said. "I was in the bathroom getting my makeup off, and suddenly there was a man's face in the window. I was so angry that I jumped on top of the toilet, flung open the window, and I took off across the roof after him. He went down a fire escape, and I remember leaning over the fire escape screaming at him, and I suddenly realized I was stark naked, leaning into street, and peo-

ple were looking up at me." The police were ready to book her until the company manager finally vouched for her.

Presumably, Fabray's upcoming run in *Pippin* will be devoid of the embezzlement of her first San Francisco engagement and the indecent exposure of the second. It will be her first time playing the role that Irene Ryan, Granny from *The Beverly Hillbillies*, created in 1972. Her big number is "Time to Start Living," a you're-only-as-old-as-you-feel anthem that evolves into an audience sing-along.

How often does Fabray work these days? "As often as people will hire me," she said. "There just aren't that many parts for older people. Certainly nothing on television."

Mothers superior

Broadway gave Fabray her start, and she teamed memorably on screen with Fred Astaire in *The next page* ▶

FILM

Digital endeavors

SF IndieFest's 'Digital Underground'

by Gary Morris

Digital Video (DV) is the latest blow — it's tempting to say body blow — against mainstream commercial filmmaking. Major studios with huge financial stakes in the production and distribution of movies will undoubtedly grab most of this increasingly rich pie once it becomes clear how they can do it, but for the moment, independent filmmakers are doing the interesting work in this area. The San Francisco Digital Underground Festival, a spin-off of the annual SF IndieFest, showcases some of the latest DV docs, features, and shorts.

DV makes it ridiculously easy to do location shooting, which creates an enticing double sense of heightened reality and a kind of prosaic intimacy. Patrick Hasson's comedy *Waiting* makes good use of its locations — South Philadelphia, and particularly, the Mafia-run bistro where much of the action takes place. The film stars terminally cute Will Keenan as Sean McNutt, a drunken layabout whose ambitions in life are to remain an "ambassador to the service industry" and reclaim his girlfriend, who fled to a more predictable guy.

There's plenty of amusing insider dish here about restaurant life: "What's left on the plate is yours," Sean tells a trainee server; and the long-suspected "Once any food hits the floor you have four seconds to pick it up before the dirt on the floor surface can cling to it." The hip quotient here is high, including a dominatrix (who turns Sean into her leather-hooded "dog") and an aged Mafia don-cum-restaurateur who bitches operatically about his loss of virginity at age 12. Less successful are the inevitable Mafia clichés and two tired, tubby "snap queens," also servers, who look like they crawled out of a trashy 1960s gay movie.

Considering the size of the fest, the queer presence here is encour-

agingly strong, with two features (three if you count *The Eyes of Rudra*, a documentary on an "insect opera" created mostly by queens of both sexes). Esther Bell's *GodAss* is a coming-of-age dramedy about a slacker girl thrown together with her estranged gay father. This one opens promisingly with a witty, nuanced scene of Teri meeting her aging punk rock idol and having to watch him suck himself off. But in spite of some effective scenes of millennial punks trying to make it in a hostile world, the film never really takes off dramatically, and the closet motif (Dad's still repressed) gives the whole affair a dated feel. B-52s completists will welcome Fred Schneider as daddy's fussy, Flo Nightingale-like boyfriend.

Face time

More thoroughly homo-geized is Shawn Durr's endearingly titled *Fucked in the Face*. This heady mix of camp and queer serial killer plots features "Henry Normal" as a pathetic little hunk who follows his coke-riddled nose and aching dick from one seamy encounter to another. He's in love with a wanted poster (which, nicely using the DV technology, comes to life and talks) of a queer murderer who "has a list of all the gay icons of the 20th century" that he plans to kill. Poor Henry's also up against a roving band of dykes who chant, "I hate cock," and murder queens in back alleys. Some of Durr's dialogue demands quotation: "If I get fucked in the face one more time this week, I'm gonna die." The film's bright video look and endless fetish sex scenes add weight to a film that's not so much badly acted as non-acted, simply amateurs screaming their lines. Inexplicably, this adds to the fun.

Back on the reality front, Christopher Wilcha's *The Target Strikes Back* answers every question we ever had about the inner workings of the Columbia House Record Club. Wilcha works this seemingly banal idea into a powerful look at corporate America in all its foolishness. Wilcha was

brought into the company as a music fan who could clue the suits into the "punk rock scene" (as it existed in 1993, long after its heyday). The film skewers the "secret motivational message" mentality of the Club, and, surprisingly, manages to elicit job-ending comments from some of his fellow employees. Most intriguing are the ways Wilcha and his cohorts subverted the job, at least until they — and the demographic they helped create — are censored, defanged, and eventually dis-employed.

Another solid doc is *The Eyes of Rudra*, Dean Mermell's paean to the folks who create the title opera at the annual Burning Man festival. Mermell uses all kinds of digital effects — split screens, color filters, distortions — to capture the "chaos culture" behind the opera. Its creators are an unusual group by any standards, people of all ages, sexes, and sexualities who band together briefly to create this ambitious event, which is performed only once (the sets are then burned, in keeping with the festival). The opera's plot — giant insects mate with humans to help survive a tainted ecology, set in an apocalyptic netherworld of giant towers and barren wastes — is perhaps best appreciated by sci-fi fans, but Mermell makes the creative process behind it palpable and exciting.

Clifton Holmes's *In the Dark* wins the prize for creepiest film in the fest. In this nightmarish mix of existential horror and noir, Jane is a bored librarian who starts getting mysterious notes from "Game Master" paying her to do various strange things. The money's doubled with each demand, and the seemingly sensible Jane becomes dangerously compliant as her bank account grows and the notes become increasingly bizarre. Director Holmes makes limited use of DV's possibilities by shooting in black-and-white, but this ultimately works to the film's advantage in limning a bleak world that inexorably closes in on its denizens. *In the Dark*'s ingenious-



Kurt Knobelsdorf and Will Keenan in *Waiting*

ly plotted story, solid acting, and unsparingly grim world view are perfectly married to the visuals, making it clear what's important in a movie, regardless of the technology involved. ▼

The Digital Underground
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Nanette Fabray

◀ previous page

Bandwagon, but television made her a household face. Twenty years after replacing Imogene Coca as Sid Caesar's sidekick, she began a run of mothers. First she was Mary Tyler Moore's mom on the MTM sitcom, then Bonnie Franklin's mother on *One Day at a Time*, and most recently, real-life niece Shelley Fabares' mother on *Coach*.

"But I'm not what you'd call — quote — a mother figure," she said. "I'm a comedienne."

But Fabray is indeed a mother. She has a son, Jamie, a dermatologist who has provided Fabray with two grandchildren. Jamie's father was Fabray's late second husband, Ranald MacDougall, a screenwriter who worked on everything from *Mildred Pierce* to *Cleopatra*.

It's a little surprising that Jamie, coming from two show business parents, went in an entirely different direction. "But I think the fact that we tried to save my husband, who just walked across the room, sat down, and died when my son was 15, had a tremendous influence on his life as to being a doctor," Fabray said.



Nanette Fabray as the First Lady in 1962's *Mr. President*

"And I think the fact that he saw how surgery brought back my hearing had a great influence on him, too."

Fabray hasn't married again, nor is there someone special in

her life right now. "I do sometimes go out with the doctor who gave me back my hearing, who's 92," she said. "And I sometimes go out with Eddie Albert, who's also 92, so there really isn't that much going out anymore."

Albert was Fabray's co-star in her final Broadway outing, a lightweight comedy titled *No Hard Feelings*. "It lasted one night," she said. "The audiences had a wonderful time, but the critic from *The New York Times* killed it. You put so much of yourself into a show, and you love it and trust it, and then you're cut off at the knees. It's too soon. But to stay in this business, you need a skin of armor but still keep a heart that is soft and sensitive and vulnerable."

With a Tony Award, three Emmys, and the Humanitarian Award from the Screen Actor's Guild, you can count Nanette Fabray among the survivors — but a survivor whose sunny countenance has always made her seem more like a friend than a celebrity. Call her the star next door. ▼

Pippin will play Aug. 29-Sept. 3 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$42.50. Call 978-2787.

Remembrance of Proust past

by Daniel Blue

Marcel Proust: A Life by Jean-Yves Tadié, translated by Euan Cameron; Viking (1996, translation 2000), \$40

In case readers haven't noticed, editions of Marcel Proust have been shifting in recent years. Individual volumes have been reconfigured and renamed, and even the main title *Remembrance of Things Past* has been quietly retired. The Modern Library edition now calls the book *In Search of Lost Time*, and this far more accurate name is likely to stick.

Further changes are on the way, and they're largely due to the efforts of one man, Jean-Yves Tadié. Named editor for a trove of unconsulted manuscripts, Tadié expanded the standard French edition from three volumes to four, and virtually redefined the novel. In fact, he is the most important figure in Proust's life since, well, his death; and that makes his recently translated *Marcel Proust* not just one more chronicle of the novelist's history, but the biography of the decade.

Tadié is plainly irritated by most previous lives of the writer and aims to set the record straight. The problem goes back to Proust himself, who wrote *In Search of Lost Time* in the first person and presented it as the story of the narrator's life. Who could that narrator be but Proust himself, particularly as many of his friends (soon to be ex-friends) recognized themselves in its characters?

Proust rebuffed efforts to key his novel to living people, and in fact his book is not so much an autobiography as a symbolic recreation. Proust believed that our true life passes unnoticed beneath a haze of distraction and habit, and in his novel he tried to extract this essence from the surface dramas which obscured its reality.

If Proust was The Man Who Led Two Lives, this means that

two biographies are possible, the one he wrote and the more traditional kind. In fact, the latter enjoys a slightly adversarial relationship with the masterpiece, and some of Proust's biographers have been accused of writing biographies so fiction-like and entertaining that they compete directly with the more demanding text by Proust.

Tadié sternly repudiates any such fictionalizing, and takes the high road by proclaiming, "The true biography of a writer or an artist is that of his work." Of course, this plays to his advantage since it calls for "taking into account those things that only the work of an editor permits him to know," Tadié being the most knowledgeable editor around.

Accordingly, Tadié trades on his knowledge of the manuscripts by explaining how the novel (originally a mere literary sketch) ballooned to 3,000 pages. He also provides useful background on the treatment of Jews in France

other biographers, and he quotes with approval a remark made by his housekeeper, "Little Marcel always knew he would become the great Proust." He recounts in detail his subject's slow disenchantment with love and sex, first courting his schoolmates, then aristocratic straight men, and (as he found himself perpetually rejected) settling for the favors of servants and men in brothels.

Unfortunately, Tadié is downright sniffy on Proust's gay life, and he clearly regards writing about sex as beneath him. Throughout the book he refers to gays as "inverts," while straight men are termed "virile." This might be due to a translation problem, except that he also tells us that gay men

'Work while you still have light,' Proust counseled, and Tadié demonstrates the process by which this social butterfly became a hermit in the middle of Paris.

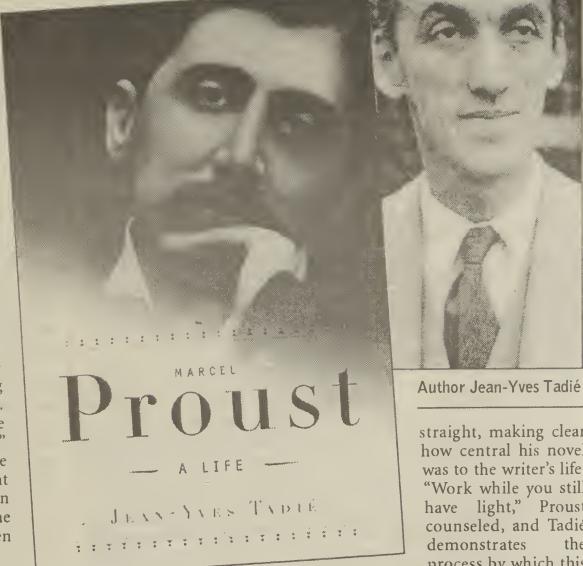
(Proust was half-Jewish), and pays particular attention to the intellectual and literary influences on Proust. Unlike many biographers who dismiss Proust's chronic illnesses and asthma as psychosomatic, Tadié is sympathetic. "Marcel did not wish to be an invalid; he was obliged to accept his illness. Only someone who has never had asthma could think that the advantages outweigh the inconveniences."

Little Marcel

Tadié's Proust is more aggressive and determined than that of

have an instinctive dislike of women and are fixated on youth, stereotypes which suggest that he has never heard straight men talking about women in locker rooms, or considered why Hollywood retires its actresses at age 29.

A most serious deficiency stems from Tadié's decision to stick grimly to facts. Since he lacks the vision to animate these details, they lie on the page like so many dead particulars, the sort of inert materials which it was Proust's genius to awaken into life. The biography thus becomes a kind of art in reverse as Tadié takes Proust's



Author Jean-Yves Tadié

story and sternly turns the gold back into lead.

Nonetheless, Tadié is the universally accepted expert on Proust, and *Marcel Proust* represents the state of the art on Proust studies. And Tadié gets his priorities

straight, making clear how central his novel was to the writer's life. "Work while you still have light," Proust counseled, and Tadié demonstrates the process by which this social butterfly became a hermit in the middle of Paris. Proust's task took over as his life declined, and everything that happened to him, as well as his vitality and energy, was drawn by a kind of capillary action into the visionary book he left behind. ▼

Mr. Green

► page 33

way around this grumpy-old-man character, barking out lines in Yiddish-tinged accents and roaring like King Lear over an ungrateful daughter. But there is also a wry side to Goodman's characterization, and when his emotional awakening comes, it is genuinely affecting.

Brace has the right look and demeanor for the sexually repressed Ross, who knows the right thing for others to do, but has trouble applying them to himself.

Brace offers an unforced, knowing performance that is quickly appealing.

The demographics for *Visiting Mr. Green* skew older, and understandably it has become a popular attraction in Florida. With the graying of America, and of the baby-boomer gay population, New Conservatory may have found a new niche for itself. ▼

Visiting Mr. Green will run through Sept. 10 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-8972.

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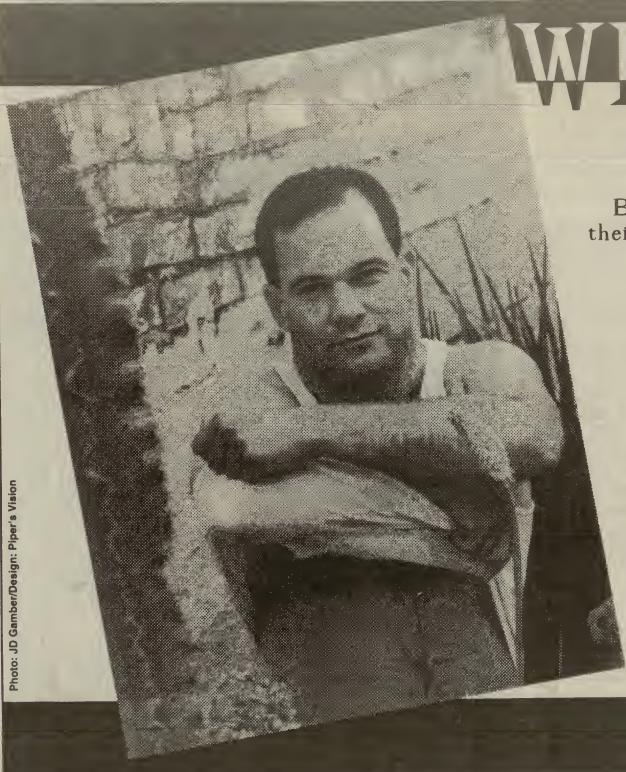


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Tool time

by Jim Nawrocki

Dirty Pictures: Tom of Finland, Masculinity, and Homosexuality by Micha Ramakers; St. Martin's Press, \$27.95

Most gay men know Tom of Finland's pictures, if not by name, then by sight. The artist's hypermasculine, muscular and miraculously endowed gay caricatures have become icons in gay culture. Indeed, the sailors, leathermen, lumberjacks and other figures that populate his drawings have arguably helped define gay culture as much as depict it. Though never anything more than campy pornography, Tom of Finland's work has, in recent years, attracted a fair amount of serious attention. His drawings have been included in museum collections around the world (including SFMOMA). And now his work is the subject of a somewhat scholarly study, *Dirty Pictures: Tom of Finland, Masculinity, and Homosexuality*, by art historian Micha Ramakers.

Ramakers begins with a brief

biography of the artist, Touko Laaksonen, who was born in Finland in 1920. Laaksonen worked as an advertising artist in Finland before discovering that his private drawings of his gay sexual fantasies were of interest to others as well. By the time of his death in 1991, Laaksonen was internationally famous as Tom of Finland, and was able to support himself with the sale of his drawings. *Dirty Pictures* is a thoughtful examination of how Tom of Finland's art evolved, and how it has helped shape gay culture.

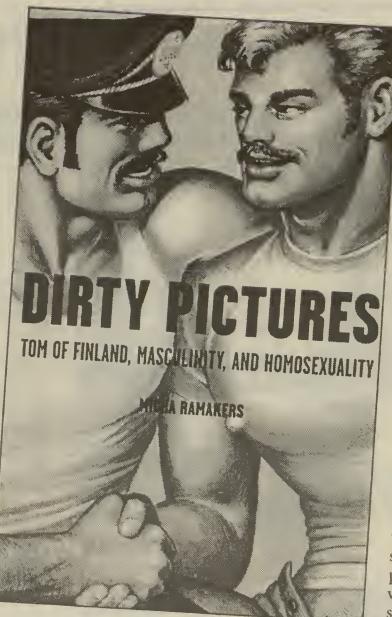
Ramakers makes it clear that Tom of Finland should not be considered a "serious" artist, and he notes that Tom himself seemed to acknowledge this. He does believe, however, that Tom has "[created] the most effective propaganda for a gay utopia produced to date." And in creating and disseminating that propaganda, Ramakers argues, Tom of Finland was, and remains, a powerful force in defining gay culture. It's a role that Tom of Finland himself was well aware of, and hopeful about. Ramakers quotes Finland on this point: "I know my little 'dirty

drawings' are never going to hang in the main salons of the Louvre, but it would be nice if... our world learns to accept all the different ways of loving. Then maybe I could have a place in one of the smaller side rooms."

Raw bar

Tom of Finland has more or less earned one of those "side rooms," but it hasn't come without some controversy. His drawings depict raw sexuality, after all, and gay sexuality at that. They're pornography, but a kind of pornography that defies easy categorization. Paradoxically, the drawings exhibit an almost photographic-like realism and detail, but depict bodies with musculature and genitalia of impossible proportions. And they show a range of sexual activity from cruising to intense S&M, and even gang rape. A few of the pictures even include overt Nazi images — uniformed torturers complete with swastika-emblazoned armbands. Because of these elements in his work, Tom of Finland has been accused of glorifying rape, and of having Nazi sympathies.

Ramakers wades into these controversies bravely, examining the evidence and the arguments, and ultimately concluding that Tom of Finland's intentions and influence have been positive,



rather than negative. While Ramakers' analysis is thorough, his arguments aren't always convincing. On the subject of the Nazi drawings, for example, he argues that the use of these images is personal rather than political. He reminds us that Tom had many sexual encounters with young German soldiers in Helsinki in the early 1940s, and that these drawings are an attempt to evoke those days of sexual adventure. Looking at the Nazi drawing included in this book, however, it seems as if Ramakers is stretching to make that connection.

On the more general issue of whether or not Tom's work glorifies rape and violence, Ramakers points out that the drawings depict a gay masculine ideal, and that the sexual acts shown in them are, for the most part, entered into consensually, and happily. The men in Tom of Finland's universe might look like they're victimizing each other, but the sex is all in good fun. For the most part, the pictures seem to support that interpretation.

Each chapter in *Dirty Pictures* is devoted to a particular theme: clothes as a mirror of gay culture, uniforms, domination and sex, and sex in public vs. private spaces. Along the way, Ramakers examines some fascinating sub-themes, such as the roles of women and black men in the Tom of Finland universe. The book is well illustrated, not only with Tom of Finland's work, but examples of some of his "colleagues" such as George Quaintance, as well as more "mainstream" influences such as Paul Cadmus and Charles Demuth. Ramakers also includes more than a few examples of Tom of Finland's earliest drawings, in which the young men's bodies are scaled down to more realistic proportions. *Dirty Pictures* is a thorough and thoughtful study of Tom of Finland's curious career. ▼



Juliane Köhler and Maria Schrader in *Aimée & Jaguar*

Aimée & Jaguar

◀ Arts cover

down in the street, outside the apartment building. It was very cold, and I said, "This is silly, having her wait outside. Invite her up." This was several days after we met at the café.

"She immediately started to flirt with me," Wust says, pausing to smile. "Felice would come up more and more. Then she started to stay for dinner. And she would stay more and more."

"She really knew how to flirt. She always brought things, flowers, pretty things. Gifts for the kids. Only a month later, she celebrated Christmas with us. In the meantime, I got to know other women in her 'gang,' and that very New Year's Eve, we had a huge party at my place."

But while emotional intimacy may have seemed to happen quickly, physical intimacy was another matter entirely. "In the beginning, Felice was a bit shy," Wust recalls. "She didn't know how to size me up."

One day that changed, in the room that, to many people, most symbolizes heterosexual domesticity. "Felice came into the kitchen to help me dry the dishes. All of a sudden, she pulled me towards her and tried to kiss me. I pushed her off. I even hit her with

my fist, that's how surprised I was. For the rest of the day, and many days after that, Felice would look at me from the side every so often, as though she were waiting for me to invite her to try again. But she did not succeed, at least not on that day."

Between the lines

Shortly thereafter, the Nazis stepped up their deportation efforts, and Felice drove into the country to hide. But she promised to write to Wust, and kept that promise.

"The letters that she wrote me became increasingly fresher," Wust recalls. "There was always more written between the lines than she actually wrote."

"Felice stayed in the countryside for about two weeks. During that time, I had to go into the hospital for an operation. When Felice returned, she immediately came to the hospital where I was recovering and took me in her arms. And that's when we made our first kiss," Wust sighs, adding a phrase which needs no translation: "So romantisch."

Wust also says their lives were, at times, utterly happy and care-free. Felice loved to write poems and Wust enjoyed singing, as depicted in one scene of the film. "I sang very often for Felice," Wust says. "Schubert. Beethoven. I pushed her off. I even hit her with

page 40 ▶

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Courtesy of Women Make Movies

A scene from *Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy*, a videotape by Tracey Moffatt

Moffatt's ambition

Photographs, videos and films at YBC

by Alex Robertson Textor

Australian artist Tracey Moffatt investigates representation and staging in *New Work* by Tracey Moffatt, an exhibit currently at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Curated by Associate Visual Arts Curator Arnold J. Kemp, *New Work* runs through October 22.

The Yerba Buena show contains two parts. In Gallery 1 on the main floor, two photographic works (*Invocations* and *Laudanum*) and one video work (*Artists*, a collaboration with Gary Hillberg) are shown. In the upstairs theatre, three of Moffatt's films (*Nice Colored Girls*, *Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy* and *Lip*, also a collaboration with Hillberg) are featured, along with Jane Cole's documentary about Moffatt, *Up in the Sky: Tracey Moffatt in New York* (1999).

Moffatt's work has followed a

distinctly Australian tenor, focusing on dynamics of race and racism specific to Australia. An early post-university Sydney exhibition, in 1986, focused on depictions of men of Aboriginal and Asian descent, in the process politicizing the codes and stances of Australian masculinity. Moffatt is herself of mixed Aboriginal heritage, born in 1960 and raised by a white foster family in a working/middle class suburb. Much of her work examines various legacies of colonialism within Australian history and into the present.

Though Moffatt has come to be well-known for her dreamy, experimental video, she began her artistic career in photography. Most of Moffatt's photography series are highly staged. Because the subjects of inquiry in her photographic series are often quite mundane and simple, viewers are forced to consider the process of staging in the first place. There is a distinctly theatrical aspect to much of Moffatt's photography, and additionally, a humorous and scene-driven (not technology-driven) ethos is in force. In her collection *Fever Pitch*, Moffatt writes about her approach to photography: "In making my own photographs, I admit to being technically dumb. I can barely use a camera. This has never bothered me."

Two photography series are included in the Yerba Buena exhibit. *Laudanum* (1998) is a set of hand-tinted, mock-vintage photogravures depicting an Asian servant and her elderly white mistress, shot in a mansion. *Invocations* (2000) is a series of silkscreens that ape childlike cartoon fears in their animation-primed imagination.

Complex matters

Moffatt's focus as a film/video artist is loosely conceptual, taking on ruthlessly complex political matters in a rapid and stunning manner. *Nice Colored Girls* (1987) examines the exploitative relations between white men and Aboriginal women in Australian history. The film's voiceovers recite white male discoverers' assessments of natives, against (among other images) a narrative of Aboriginal women getting a white man drunk and enjoying a meal on his tab.

Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy (1990) is perhaps Moffatt's most visually striking film. *Night Cries*

focuses on a grown Aboriginal woman caretaking her dying white mother. Shot on a soundstage representing an outback house and yard, the film suggests a lack of space and oxygen. With its brassy lighting, the film renders "nature" itself artificial and harsh. What is the "rural tragedy" of this film? Is it the mother's infirmity, pain and eventual death? Is it the deep resentment and disaffection on the part of the daughter? Is it the existence of pain and twisted history between two women of different racial designations? As in much of Moffatt's work, the ambiguity is forced to the fore.

The two other videos in the exhibit, *Lip* and *Artists*, are collages of images from television and films, investigating representations of women of color and artists respectively. *Up in the Sky*, Jane Cole's documentary on Moffatt, provides some key insight into Moffatt's own project, though it is hurt by less-than-convincing commentary by some of her fans and patrons.

This artist is highly attuned to popular culture and its domains of fandom and celebrity worship. She loves the theatrical violence of sports and the high pitch of sitcom humor. Moffatt overlays her work with a sense of humor and an embrace of leisure, both guided by a popular culture-oriented set of references and inspirations.

For viewers outside Australia, Moffatt provides a series of intimate and complex perspectives into race and racism in Australia. In turn, she comments on many questions and problems that are in no way particular to Australia: colonial relations and histories, and the gendering of these colonial legacies specifically.

Further, throughout Moffatt's work, male bodies are depicted as casual objects, and female bodies are represented as sources of violence and activity. A reversal such as this one may make Moffatt's work particularly interesting to queer viewers. While it's impossible to condense the range of an artist as innovative as Moffatt, it can easily be said that her work is of immense, unpredictable and unexpected value, both as an oeuvre and in this show. ▼

New Work by Tracey Moffatt, through October 22 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Call 978-ARTS.

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TELEVISION

Down and out in Beverly Hills

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the most exciting of times, it was the most tedious of times. It was the most nostalgic of times, it was — yes, the Democratic convention. In case you were off the planet, plugged in to the *Big Brother* webcast or just watching network coverage rather than the full convention reportage on PBS and CNN, the Democrats achieved one of their goals — not to look like the Republicans.

Despite being in the land of excess, the Democrats didn't need to bus in diversity. The broad racial, ethnic, gender (even a tranny delegate among the 212 queer delegates!), class and age range at the convention served as a solid reminder of party differences to anyone confused about whether the Democrats and Republicans are the same just because Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan say they are.

The Democrats (unlike the Re-

publicans) didn't lock their dissenters and hard-liners in a closet for the convention, but allowed them equal time — including even anti-choice Dems among the exhaustive (and exhausting) line-up of speakers.

There were old Democrats, new Democrats, centrist Democrats, lefty Democrats, blacks, Latinos, Asians, women, queers, Kennedys, Clintons and Gores galore. Unlike the lockstep Republicans



Lavender Tube

who, like Mussolini, kept the show running on time, the Democrats were pretty queer (and much better dressed): everything started late and ran long; people told dumb jokes and ad-libbed. It was a whole lot closer to what conventions used to be, unscripted moments of real politik.

As usual, Bill Clinton — the life of the party — stole the show, which, if you believe the morning news quarterbacks, riled the Gore

camp. Clinton's speech rocked the Staples Center. Vintage Clinton — sharp, funny, smart, focused, emotional and loooong. No one works a crowd like Clinton. He stuck it to the Republicans so hard and so deep, they'll be cleaning lube off themselves for a month.

Not only did Clinton enumerate the laundry list of accomplishments of the Clinton-Gore Administration, he turned the Republicans' own lines back on them time and again, most notably that old Reagan chestnut, "Are you better off than you were eight years ago?"

Halls of power

Clinton's speech was so fiery and fine the pundits who love to hate him — including several of his former staff, like George Stephanopoulos and David Gersten — didn't know how to dismiss him. This may be how the controversy over his entrance got started. One of Clinton's Hollywood buds suggested he be filmed walking solo through the long hallways of the Staples Center prior to his entrance — a kind of lame-duck walking meets the WWF. A kiron would run over the long shot, enumerating the many successes of the Clinton-Gore years. But although the kiron ran in the hall itself and on CNN and PBS, the networks chose not to run it. Which meant most Americans watched four minutes of Clinton walking solitarily to the



Michael O'Neill

Democratic Party running mates Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman

podium like he was on Bush's — we mean Texas — death row. The intended drama got converted (or perverted) into a wholly different drama. The networks seem to have made a calculated decision to delete his accomplishments while making it appear he was grandstanding at Gore's party.

The controversy only came to light because that other Hollywood bud, Barbra Streisand, complained and made *Access Hollywood* cover it as their top story. We're all *verklempt*.

The other big convention controversy was *The Kiss*. After Tipper Gore's super-sweet photographic bio of Al & Tipper's political *Love Story*, Gore walked on stage and, as

the crowd was wildly cheering, told Tipper (you needed to read lips for this part) it was wonderful, he loved her and gave her a big hug and a real, sexy, passionate, almost-tongue kiss. Whoa, baby!

The pundits couldn't stop talking about it (which makes us think they really aren't getting any), *Extra* reran *The Kiss* video 50 times, and reporters asked Gore about it between political queries as he and Lieberman rode the Mark Twain riverboat down the mighty Mississippi.

Gore can't cut a break. Everybody bitches that he isn't spontaneous, and when he is, they dismiss him for it. Instead of viewing him

page 41 ►

Opportunists

◀ Arts cover

dus, that gay-into-hetero Christian cult.)

There's not much that's queer about *The Opportunists*, except the locale: Queens. Here, an unmannered Walken plays Vic, an ex-con turned car mechanic who has some cash flow problems. But with Cyndi as his bar-owning girlfriend, Vic has no problems leading a straight life — that is, until a long-lost, hunky Irish cousin (Peter McDonald) arrives on the scene. Let the heist begin.

Sitting opposite the tastefully attired, lavender-tressed Cyndi, B.A.R. was ready to chat up the film. But when we first asked the songstress about her activities on behalf of AIDS and gay rights, there was little time to address any other issues.

"All right! Let me just say one thing," the "Time After Time" singer began. "I've done what I could. I wish I could have done something really incredible. I only did what I could do, but the gay community is not like a separate community for me."

"I've gay friends and a gay family member, okay. And when you have a gay person in your family or they are your close friends, you've got to stand up and say, 'Hey! You're a great guy. You're a great gal. I'm proud of you.' Because if you don't, and you really love that person, and you don't show up, that's really sending the wrong message to the person. To the world."

"We're all blessed to be born in this country, because this is a wonderful country of real opportunities. I mean, it's hard, but we weren't born in a war-torn country. We don't have major volcanoes all over us. You know, we don't have earthquakes. We do, but it's not like we've been devastated by them like other parts of the planet, right?"

"I mean, like Serbia. What if you were born in Serbia? What would your career have been like then?"

"The only thing that I see is ... the unfortunate part about this country is not what happens to us. It's what we do to each other. So if we can extend our arms and give support to each other and celebrate our differences, we got

something."

"Me, growing up, my sister is a lesbian. She's one of the most fantastic people I know. She's always been heroic to me. She has always tried to do something good in the world. She's been an inspiration to me, and I ain't just talking, you know."

"Everybody in this country has somebody gay in their family. Like I used to go to weddings, and they'd be like, 'Oh, your sister's the...,' and I go, 'The photographer!' I wore a tuxedo on those occasions, too, because I knew they were going to give her a problem. And this is way before k.d. lang."

"So if you don't stand up for each other, what's going to happen? What, are we going to closet ourselves again? I'm not up for it. And that's a little arrogant of me and it's a little selfish of me because I'm comfortable within the community, because that's kind of like an extension of my own lifestyle, except I'm not gay. I'm heterosexual, but I could give a ... you know, if you are or not. It's who you are."

"Since I have so many wonderful gay friends and my family who I love deeply, you gotta show up. It's just a ... You gotta show up. It's half-selfish, and half I feel an obligation. So I do what I can. I don't see it as a heroic thing, because it ain't."

Strange company

Christopher Walken had lots more time left to talk about *The Opportunists* after he answered my gay question. I brought up 1991's *The Company of Strangers*, in

page 45 ▶



'Opportunist' Christopher Walken

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Great, greater, greatest hits

Clinton's legacy, and more 'best of' collections

by Gregg Shapiro

The distinction between "greatest hits" collections and "best of" compilations continues to elude me. The discs in this column fall under both headings.

I'm not sure why it is that I prefer George Clinton's solo work, collected on the wonderful *Greatest Hits* (Capitol) disc, to the work he did with Parliament, but I think it might have something to do with a Greyhound bus trip I once made from Chicago to Champaign-Urbana in the late '70s. Boomboxes were beginning to become popular, but headphones weren't, and I was serenaded for four hours by Parliament's "Flashlight," on a play/rewind/repeat cycle, by the passenger in the seat behind me. Suffice to say that it took me years to fully appreciate the song again.

I joined the Clinton cult after the initial buzz of his highly-regarded 1982 *Computer Games* album ("Atomic Dog," "Loopzilla"), with his follow-up disc *You Shouldn't Nuf Bit Fish* ("Last Dance," "Quickie," "Nubian Nut"). After that, I was hooked. The wicked funk of "Last Dance," however, did not prepare me for what was to follow. "Double Oh-Oh" (from *Some of My Best Friends Are Jokes*) is my favorite Clinton song, an example of the man at his best. Clinton came close to toppling that hit with "Do Fries Go with that Shake?" (from the follow-up album *R&B Skeletons in the Closet*). The hits here are the "greatest" of Clinton's '80s period.

While George Clinton was working his own unique (and bizarre) magic on funk and R&B as a solo artist during the 1980s, Whitney Houston was busy blazing her own distinctive trail. The evidence can be found on *The Greatest Hits* (Arista). Whitney, daughter of disco diva Cissy Houston, held her own against other mainstream '80s divas such as Madonna and Janet Jackson, and maintained her ranking throughout the '90s. What better way to celebrate her accomplishments than to release a two-disc, almost comprehensive hits disc in 2000? Disc one, titled "Cool Down," contains the power ballads "I Will Always Love You,"



"Greatest Love of All," "Saving All My Love for You," and "Didn't We Almost Have It All."

This disc also has "Same Script, Different Cast," the double-barrel diva duet of the year, featuring Houston and labelmate Deborah Cox. In addition to the reinventing of "If I Told You That" as a duet with George Michael, disc two, aka "Throw Down," mainly consists of enhanced dance tracks ("I Wanna Dance With Somebody," "How Will I Know," "I'm Every Woman," "So Emotional") and dance versions of other tracks, including Thunderpuss' career-reviving remix of "It's Not Right But It's Okay." Give Whitney her props and buy this disc.

Bacharach attack

Whitney's auntie Dionne Warwick is once again being celebrated for her '60s work on *The Very Best of Dionne Warwick* (Rhino). Fourteen of the disc's 16 tracks are the Burt Bacharach/Hal David compositions that helped to make both the composers and the singer who sang them household words. ("Theme From) The Valley Of The Dolls" is the only non-Bacharach/David track from the '60s on this collection (it was co-written by Dory and Andre Previn). Warwick's biggest pre-Barry Manilow/pre-Arista hit of the '70s, "Then Came You," a duet with the Spinners, is also included here.

Karen Carpenter and her brother Richard were as ubiquitous during the 1970s and early 1980s as Whitney Houston was during the '80s and '90s. The Carpenters' recently released *Singles 1969-1981* (A&M) expands on *Singles 1969-1973* by eight years and several tracks, giving the listener a good perspective on the Carpenters' considerable contribution to popular music. To this day, singers (and drummers, as

well) cite Karen Carpenter as an influence, and hearing her stunning and distinctive vocals on tracks such as "We've Only Just Begun," "It's Going To Take Some Time," "Superstar," "Rainy Days And Mondays," "Goodbye to Love," and "(They Long To Be) Close to You" serves as a reminder that there was no one like Karen Carpenter before we were introduced to her, and there has been no one like her since her untimely death.

Turn on any soft-rock station and you will probably hear a song by the Carpenters. You will probably also hear a song by Wilson Phillips. The harmonizing trio (Chynna Phillips, Carnie and Wendy Wilson), the daughters of artists who individually made their marks in the music industry before their children were even born, struck platinum with the infectious and uplifting song "Hold

On," from their self-titled 1990 album. Other hits from their debut album on their new *Greatest Hits* (SBK/Capitol) disc include "You're In Love," "Impulsive," "Release Me," and "The Dream Is Still Alive." Pretty impressive for a new pop group. But their success was short-lived, and after releasing a second album (with the hit "You Won't See Me Cry"), the group split up and went in separate directions (including a solo career for Phillips, the Wilson sisters becoming a duo). Still, their momentary popularity earned them a place on the Elton John tribute disc *Two Rooms* (on which they performed "Daniel"), and that's not too bad.

Lehrer report

Although he only recorded a handful of albums, song satirist Tom Lehrer is still a legend in the

world of musical comedy, as well as comedy. A learned man (and genius — he graduated from Harvard at the age of 18), Lehrer has spent the past several years teaching math at the University of California/Santa Cruz. *The Remains of Tom Lehrer* (Warner Archives/Rhino) doesn't give you much insight into the kind of teacher he is, but it does an excellent job of proving that as a humorist, Lehrer is unsurpassed. Tackling subjects as diverse as Catholicism ("The Vatican Rag"), mathematics ("New Math"), S&M ("The Masochism Tango"), the elements ("The Elements"), and the holidays ("Hanukkah in Santa Monica"), Lehrer will undoubtedly make you laugh out loud. Lehrer also lent his talents to the post-Sesame Street kids show *The Electric Company*.

next page ►

Aimée & Jaguar

◀ page 37

Brahms. She loved that.

"We listened to the English radio, so we were confronted with the fact that what was actually happening during the war was very different from what most of Germany knew," Wust recalls. "We had a painting in the apartment. On the back, behind the frame, was a map of Europe. And we would listen to the radio and use pin needles to mark the advance of the Russians and the British. When the doorbell rang, we would be startled and flip over the painting as quickly as possible."

Close call

Wust says that the couple only had one close call. "Once, the bell rang at three in the morning," Wust says. "It was common knowledge that the SS came to arrest people and take them away until five in the morning. So a doorbell ring at three was terrifying. Felice went outside and stood on the balcony. I yelled through the door, and the person eventually went away. But Felice stood outside for hours. That was the only time Felice and I were really afraid."

At least until the day the couple came home and found the Gestapo waiting for Felice, whom

they immediately arrested. In a voice of harrowing sorrow, Wust recalls the visit she made to Theresienstadt, the camp where Felice was interred. Unlike the death camps, Theresienstadt was built to look hospitable and humane, so the Nazis could use it as a showcase to convince groups like the International Red Cross that the nation's Jews were being cared for properly, an idea that also had effective propaganda value domestically.

"It was incredible," Wust sighs. "When I went back to Berlin, I cried the entire journey. The only reason I went to Theresienstadt was to see Felice. And I could not."

After the end of the war in May 1945, Wust began to look for Felice, hoping that she might still be alive. Wust posted fliers and often spent entire days at the train station, in the reception room for trains arriving from the east. She sent announcements to be read over local radio, and sought assistance from the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

"We heard after the war that people survived the camps, that they got out and moved to Russia, or perhaps America. I never stopped hoping Felice was alive."

In late 1948, Felice was officially declared dead by a German court, the result of a process begun by Felice's sister to clear up some legal heritage questions. In the spring of 1949, a desperately lonely Wust attempted suicide. She failed, but her next stab at easing her isolation was perhaps even worse: She remarried. By day, she worked in her husband's electrical shop; at night, she cooked him dinner. "It was an absurd marriage," Wust says, "undertaken in panic."

But in early 1951, Wust divorced and obtained her first full-time job. She also became intensely involved with Jewish culture and revealed to friends that she had sheltered three other Jewish women after Felice's arrest during the war. Slowly, she began to tell people around her about Felice and their relationship. Wust's story became widely known in 1981, when she received the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of the Federal Republic of Germany), the nation's highest civilian honor, for her wartime heroism.

True colors

Then the harassment started. Epithets were scrawled on her walls, and liquid manure, a com-

mon agricultural fertilizer in Germany, was smeared all over her front door on many occasions.

"It was very troubling" says Wust. "All of a sudden you could tell again who was a Nazi, and who is still a Nazi." But the experience also led to a kind of acceptance Wust never expected: a warm welcome into the arms of Europe's gay and lesbian community.

"For 30 years after the war, I lived in complete isolation," she says. "I wasn't even really living. When the book was published, I did start living again. People would come to visit me. I received tremendous amounts of letters. I'm very happy with how things have turned out."

Asked why she became so public about a life lived so privately, Wust is very clear: "My one criteria for allowing both the book and the film was to create a memorial for Felice." That way, Wust says, she could rest assured that she had returned the love given to her by a woman who helped a German hausfrau find her true self and even true happiness.

Wust has collected two large valises full of mementos, records and correspondence, including the original poems and letters that comprise the core of Erica Fischer's 1994 book *Aimée & Jaguar*, which provided the textual basis for the film.

Originally, Wust planned to give her papers to her son Eberhard (who converted to Judaism) for donation to a Jewish archive in Israel, where he now lives. But Wust came to realize the materials belong in Berlin. And upon her death, her collection will be donated to one of Berlin's new museums, currently under construction, to commemorate both the Holocaust and German Jewish life in general.

Wust says she is very pleased with the memorial thus far, and there is only one more thing left for her to do. "I would like to see Felice again," she says, putting out a final cigarette and lowering her voice to whisper. Her eyes drift out the hotel window, perhaps towards the past, perhaps towards the future. Her gaze is, suddenly, one of fond longing, of love. She smiles. "I can't do that here, only when I finally get to heaven. I know there is someone there waiting for me." ▼

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Aimée & Jaguar plays the Castro Theatre Aug. 25-Sept. 7.

ARTS

Lavender Tube

◀ page 39

as a role model (still hot for his own wife after 34 years) and appreciating that he was feeling the moment (and her ass), they have to deconstruct it. It's not every day you get nominated for president. That would put a little spike into most of us. To paraphrase Bogey, sometimes a kiss is just a kiss.

Reality check

And sometimes a convention is just a phoenix rising from the ashes of a really lousy campaign. The DNC has run the worst campaign since Mondale-Ferraro, but the convention snapped the Dems back to reality. Maybe it took such old-guard heavyweights as Rep. John Lewis and Sen. Ted Kennedy and up-and-comers like Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (lieutenant governor of Maryland, being primed for major national office) to remind the Democrats of who they are. Maybe it took the knowledge that their guy is way smarter than the other guy to slap them back on track. But what could be seen, unscripted and running past prime time, was a bunch of real people with perspectives as divergent as their demographics coming together for a common — and decidedly more left than expected — goal.

These were the new Democrats, reinvented once again, as Clinton reinvented them in 1992. But this time it looks less centrist and more left, with Gore invoking the populism of the past so distinctly that Bush shrilly called it "class warfare" (just like any rich kid with oil money would). Perhaps that illusion of inclusion that Jesse Jackson referred to when lambasting the Republicans forced the Democrats to realize their strength lies in their difference, not in trying to be Republican lite.

As Martin Sheen, who plays the President on NBC's fabulous Emmy-nominated *The West Wing*, said, "Gore-Lieberman proves the Democrats have discovered fire for the second time." That may be hyperbolic TV talk, but this sure was a better party than the one in Philadelphia, even if the music sucked. (Explain to us again why Chaka Khan sang for the Republicans, while the Democrats got Country and pre-pubescent Latino kids?)

PBS gets cheers for the best convention coverage. NBC gets jeers for the bitchiest and most truncated coverage (your Republican roots are showing, girls).

Finally, it wouldn't be a convention without demonstrations, and it wouldn't be LA without police controversy. Granted, the Dems were trying to replicate the political fire of the '60s, but was that a good reason for the LAPD to use water cannons and tear gas on rather tame demonstrators? Apparently, LA missed the calm and cool of the Philly convention, where Police Commissioner John Timoney rode a bike in uniform and allowed demonstrations to go on without permits as long as no one got violent. No tear gas, no fire hoses, no rubber bullets (where did the LAPD get rubber bullets? From Dick Cheney?), no riot gear. If the LAPD keeps this up, people are going to believe OJ was innocent.

And in a political addendum, Reform Party fascist, uh, candidate, Pat Buchanan (and how did he find a — as he called her — "black lady" running mate who was a member of the John Birch Society and has her own Confederate flag?) had emergency gall bladder surgery last weekend, proving that all that bile will get you, one way or another. ▼

Greatest hits

◀ previous page

Before you go out and get a copy of the recently released *The Best of Three Dog Night: 20th Century Masters The Millennium Collection* (MCA) by late '60s/early '70s chart giants Three Dog Night, you might want to see if you can track down the far superior *The Best of 3 Dog Night* (also MCA). The new disc has only 12 tracks (including "Joy To The World," "One," "Black & White," "Mama

Told Me Not To Come," and "Eli's Coming") while *The Best of 3 Dog Night*, originally released in 1982, is a double-record set on one disc, containing 20 songs (including the gorgeous "Out In The Country," "Pieces Of April," and "Play Something Sweet").

Listening to Taj Mahal's *Best of the Private Years* (Private Music), I was reminded of what it is about the blues that rubs me the wrong way. It sounds like music trapped in the 1950s. As someone who doesn't have much patience with the silly songs of that era, I feel

the same frustration with the blues. It doesn't help matters that Mahal covers songs such as "Ooh Poo Pah Doo" and "Need Your Lovin'" (which features Bonnie Raitt). But on a song such as "Lovin' In My Baby's Eyes," a Mahal original which is reminiscent of contemporary blues artist Keb' Mo, the blues legend sounds as if he is in touch with the present. I know that blues lovers will find more to like on this collection than I did.

Devo, the overlooked innovators of American punk/new wave

(from Akron, OH, no less), are finally given their props with *Pioneers Who Got Scalped: The Anthology* (Warner Archives/Rhino), a wonderful collection that reaches into the vaults, skims from the charts and goes to the movies. As comprehensive as you can get on two CDs (hey, wait a minute, they left off "Gut Feeling"/"Slap Your Mammy Down"), the men ("are we not men?") who made nearly as many costume changes as Diana Ross throughout their career are ready to "Whip It" good again. ▼

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Circuit centering

Because I take it as my sacred obligation to report accurately and fairly on everything that passes for queer entertainment in and around San Francisco, this past weekend I explored the circuit party scene, from a safe distance, in my armchair. The experience was granted me by *Circuit Noize*, a glossy give-away magazine plucked from one of many stacks in the Castro, right alongside the *B.A.R.*



In this magazine for hard-core circuit partiers who fancy themselves a tribe, I found dozens and dozens of glossy photos of circuit-party scenes around the nation and the world. The men in these images — and some very few women and drag queens — look immensely happy and very, very alike. They hug a lot. You can sense the guys are mighty proud of their pecs.

That the photos achieve a level of shallowness excelled only by the most banal porn-movie adverts surprised me not. I expected nothing more from a publication bulging with ads from all the fat-cat circuit party promoters.

But, lo and behold, the magazine raised an eyebrow by including articles of some substance and even a bit of style. Community issues were broached. One piece, on the party drug Ecstasy, written by Paul Dillon, alerts readers to incidences in Australia of deaths in the circuit scene from an amphetamine-type drug known as PMA, which authorities there apparently misattributed to MDMA (Ecstasy). The piece responsibly steers readers to a reliable resource for sober advice on all recreational drugs, www.dancesafe.org.

Spirituality dominated the issue, however, with several writers endeavoring to explain what the circuit party high is all about. This touched me. I sensed the circuit queens reaching for universal truths.

The most succinct expression of circuit spirituality comes from editor Steve Kammon in "Transcending the Dance Floor." He writes: "There is a special place of peace and tranquility on the dance floor... Let's call this place 'the center.' The center is both a place of the dance floor and a place within your own body and mind... When you find the center, you have stepped outside of the normal flow of time... The mystics, throughout the ages, have spoken of the center... The path that we Circuit boys have found is no less valid than the path discovered by the yogis of India or the Tai Chi masters of China."

Not for a moment do I doubt Kammon's sincerity. I know the ecstasy rush. Yet I have to chuckle. It's an easy, flimsy spirituality, making the mass of boys seem like mighty flighty angels.

The circuit scene's overarching societal impact is reflected in the magazine's pec pictures and ads. No matter what platitudes the boys utter, their look says it all: pumped-up, pretty, and vacuous. While circuit goers may feel tribal, they're letting their images — and spirit — be usurped and turned into marketing tools for the spiritual path known as crass consumerism. ▼

Sat

Golden Gate YMCA

The Stop AIDS Project presents "Our Love: The Series," kicking off its second season with "Living Long Nuff to See Hope Come Back," a night of spoken-word, performance, and discussion "celebrating African American voices singing, sexing, shouting, crying and poeting in the face of AIDS." Featuring Tim West, Louie Butler, Byron Mason, Phillip Goff, and Juba Kalamka. For African American gay and bisexual men and their friends. Co-presented by Whazzup! Magazine and B/GLAM (Black Gay Letters and Arts Movement). Free; registration required. 8pm-10pm. Golden Gate YMCA Atrium, 220 Golden Gate Ave. (at Leavenworth). Registration: phone 575-0155 or email mike@stopaids.org.

The Center for Electronic Art

Opening reception: Jim Gaylord, "Recent Digital Art," a survey of the computer generated images Gaylord created with the objective "to avoid producing the result one would expect when hearing the term 'Digital Art.'" This is an opportunity to mingle with cutting-edge digitari in the heart of SoMa's bustling Multimedia Gulch. The center's students lend their high-tech art skills to a host of progressive Bay Area non-profit organizations. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 250 Fourth St. Info: 512-9300; www.ceaa.edu

Magic Theatre

"Talking With Angels," a play based on Gitta Mallasz' nonfiction work depicting the deep spiritual awakening of four Hungarians in their struggle to find meaning in their everyday lives against the backdrop of WWII. Directed by Joseph Ragno. Adapted for the stage by Shelley Mitchell with dramaturgy by David Ford. Featuring Linda Lowry, Shelley Mitchell, Rachael Steinberg and Bobby Wineapple. \$25 Fri. & Sun.; \$30 Sat.; \$20 Wed. & Thu. 8:30pm. Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-8822.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"Visiting Mr. Green," by Jeff Baron, starring Dean Goodman as an elderly, retired dry cleaner who wanders into traffic on New York City's Upper West Side and is almost hit by a car driven by Ross Gardiner, a 29-year-old gay corporate exec. From there their two lives entwine. \$15-\$25 (\$13-\$23 with Pride Season subscription). 8pm. Thru Sept. 10. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"The Fitting Room," written and directed by Kathryn G. McCarty, a series of interconnected vignettes involving an array of people — a business woman, a widower and his young daughter, a gay man and his best friend, and elderly couple, teenagers on a wild adventure, etc., as encountered from a peek inside a ladies dressing room. Co-presented by the Gaitean Players. \$15. 8pm. Thru Sept. 10.

Eureka Theatre

Final performances: 42nd Street Moon presents "The Good Companions," Johnny Mercer and André Previn's 1974 musical, created from JB Priestley's beloved novel. Set in Europe during the Great Depression, the story follows a troupe of British music-hall entertainers as they travel the British Isles. Featuring Don Cima, Alison Ayers, Bill Fahrner, and Marsha (Ward) Lanzo. \$25 Fri., Sat., Sun., \$19 seniors/students. Thru Aug. 27. 215 Jackson St. (at Battery). Info/tix: 788-1125; www.42ndStMoon.com

Magic Theatre

Word for Word presents "The Bunchgrass Edge of the World," Annie Proulx's "searing and comical family saga set on the high Wyoming plains . . . in a world rife with cruel shock and unexpected love . . . peopled with windburned, fatalistic westerners." Directed by Sandra Langsner Crews.

With Word for Word veterans Susan Harlow and Amy Kosow along

with Brian Keith Russell, Dennis Ludlow, Paul Finocchiaro, B. Chico Purdiman, and Eryka Raines. \$22. 8:30pm (3pm Sun.). Northside, Bldg. D. Fort Mason Center. 437-6775.

Paradise Lounge

The hottest dyke-rock band in the Bay Area (maybe the world), The Hail Marys, compete with queer metalheads Sparrow's Point to see who can rock harder, louder, meaner, and sexier. A night for dykes and fags who love to rock hard. Also featuring Slojack. Look for the Marys' 3rd, eagerly awaited CD to come out shortly. They'll also be out onstage at the Folsom St. Fair on Sept. 24. Cover charge. 10:30pm. 308 11th St. Info: www.thehailmarys.com

Sat

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Open house, an opportunity to sing, dance, partake of light refreshments, and socialize with others as the High Holiday season approaches, a natural time to join a synagogue. Meet Sha'ar Zahav's new rabbi, Camille Angel, as well as current members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, a progressive Reform synagogue providing a vibrant kehila (Jewish community) presence in the SF Bay Area, with members who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual Jews, together with lovers, family and friends, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who come from a wide variety of religious, ethnic, class and cultural backgrounds to worship God with egalitarian, feminist and gay-positive Jewish liturgy. Free. 6-8pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). 861-6932; www.shaarzahav.org

Yerba Buena Center

"AfroSolo Festival" presents "Elements of Soul III: Gospel,

Club Inferno, clockwise from top: Dana Ross, Tim Perdue, Birdie Bob Watt, and Peter Fogel. The divine rock 'n' roll comedy plays at the Paradise Lounge. See Sunday.



Eagle Tavern

Live music night featuring the amazing Victor Krummenacher along with Waycross.

"Come for the men, stay for the music." 398 12th St (at Harrison). Open 12noon - 2am. 626-0880.

El Rio

"Mango," a sweet, sexy dance party for women, with DJs Edaj & Chili spinning hip hop, dance hall, salsa, soca and samba on the patio. 3-8pm. Complimentary omnivore barbecue 3-5pm. 21-w/ID. 3158 Mission St. (btwn Caesar Chavez & Valencia). 282-3325.

Sun

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for



Mavis Staples offers "A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson" for the AfroSolo Arts Festival at Yerba Buena Center. See Saturday.

a Mt. Tam summit-loop hike above the fog. Enjoy panoramic views of the ocean and bay as we visit Mountain Theatre, West Point Inn, and walk the old railroad grade to the East Peak! It's a leisurely 6-mile hike with a 700-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign and Dolores & Market. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Durant Avenue, Berkeley

The Telegraph Area Association presents the "Berkeley World Music Festival," featuring Orquesta Charanson, with Special Guest Orestes Vilatô, plus Kotoja, Zydeco Flames, Liza Silva and Voz do Brazil and more. A multitude of multi-ethnic dancers and performers will ignite the crowds in a colorful carnival and block party, with merchants, artists, craftspeople, restaurants and clubs all taking part. Located on Durant Ave. btwn Telegraph & Bowditch in the heart of the Telegraph area of Berkeley. Info: (510) 649-9500.

New Valencia Hall

Radical Women hold a "Fiery Feminist Freedomsfest" to celebrate Women's Rights Day and the 80th anniversary of American women winning the right to vote. Program highlights include performances by noted poets Opal Palmer Adisa, devor major, the Straight Out Scribes, Nellie Wong and Merle Woo; music by the sensational Bay Area Afro-Latin rock band Veronica Black and legendary folk singer Faith Petric; an open-mic, and more. \$3-\$5 sliding (\$8 including "sumptuous summer supper, with vegetarian option"). 2pm. 1908 Mission St. (near 16th St. BART). 864-1278.

Minna Street Gallery

The Traveling Art Circus presents an eclectic, expressive evening of theater, film and live music. View a short film by director Jerome, projections of original works by local artists, musical entertainment by jazz ensemble Inuit, and an all new play, "A Lawyer, A Janitor, A Student, A Teacher And An Exceptional Thief," written by Mark Edwards, Dan Grenda, and Michael Wittig, directed by Mark Edwards. The Traveling Art Circus is an open-door production company, simply a large collective of artists who are trying to impart freedom of expression and "art for its own sake" in a community oriented environment. 6:30pm. 111 Minna St. Info: www.travelingartcircus.org

Paradise Lounge

The Tuck & Roll Players present "Club Inferno," a rock 'n' roll drag revue created and produced by Peter Fogel and Kelly Kittell. Starring Connie Champagne, Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow, Trauma Flintstone, Kennedy, Peter Fogel, and Birdie-Bob Watt. Will Danté ever find her way back to the world of the living? \$15. 8pm. 308 11th St. 621-1911.

Theater Artaud

"AfroSolo Festival" continues with Program B: performances by Awele, portraying the story of the Black women who played a pivotal role in the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott; Cedric Brown relating one man's wish for recognition and freedom to be himself (a nod to composer and musician Billy Strayhorn, who worked with Duke Ellington); Galdy Nkrumah in a story about the affect violence can have on three generations of a Black family (directed by Rhodessa Jones); and Robert Henry Johnson executing a solo dance exploring the transition between boyhood and manhood. \$16. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.



Jim Gaylord's unexpected "Recent Digital Art" shows at The Center for Electronic Art. See Friday.

**Mon
28**

Piaf's

QComedy.com presents Gay Comedy Showcase, hosted by Nick Leonard, with Mary Caruba, John Hoogasian, David Sparks, Regina Stoops, DD Fabu, Joseph Caro, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Liquid

"Joy," an significant sonic outpost in the Mission catering to cool guys who are as much into the sounds as the other guys. Art projections. Unpretentious space. \$2. 11pm-2am. 21+w/D. 2925 16th St. (at S. Van Ness).

The Top

"Movin' On Up," a night of deep house with DJs Mark Anthony, Kevin West, and Dmitri. The Top is a DJ bar with a mixed clientele who appreciate deejaying as an art form, and who love to dance. It's too intimate a space to be called a danceclub, but to simply term it a bar would do to take away from the focus of the place—the music. DJs spin here every night of the week, and the small dancefloor is packed. 424 Haight St. (btwn Fillmore and Webster). Info: 864-7386; www.bondage-a-go-go.com

**Tue
29**

Liquid

DJ David Harness spins old-school house and garage at "Taboo," a place for forbidden indulgences. \$2. 11pm-2am. 21+w/D. 2925 16th St. (at S. Van Ness).

**Wed
30**

A Different Light

Alvin Orloff reads from *I Married An Earthling*, his send-up of traditional science fiction, focusing on an Earth Studies professor from the planet Zeeron who decide to increase his university status by visiting Earth. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Cat Club

"Bondage a Go-Go," the long-running fetish club specializing in goth, industrial, "alternative," and grim '80s music. A great place to wear liquid latex, accentuate your scars, seductively reveal your nether regions, and meet S/M and fetish devotees of all genders and bents. With go go dancer writhing for action. Goth wear strongly encouraged. \$5 b4 10pm; \$7 fetish dress; \$10 street wear. 21+w/D. 181 Eddy St. (at Taylor). Info: www.bondage-a-go-go.com

Butter

"Cream," a gay night out on the town with Mikee and friends, featuring resident DJs JC and Pete plus weekly guests. Drag show at midnight. \$5. 9pm-2am. 21+w/D. 354 11th St. (at Folsom).

**Thu
31**

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

Preview: TheatreWorks presents Terrence McNally's "Master Class," a theatrical

drama delving into the brilliant, fiery mind of opera diva Maria Callas. In the play, Callas hosts a "master class" for ambitious, often intimidated students who are subject to both her piercing criticisms and her memories, ranging from the triumphs of La Scala to her doomed love for Ari Onassis. Opens Sat., Sept. 2. \$20-\$38; 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 7:30pm Tue.; 2pm Sat. & Sun. matinees. Thru Sept. 24. Corner of Castro & Mercy streets, Mountain View. Info: (650) 903-6000; www.theatreworks.org

City Nights

"Faith" welcomes DJ Sahid of Germany in a preview of Club Faith's upcoming Mega Buzz party. Resident DJs Blackstone and Ruben Manicas control the main room; DJs Jay-R and Larry spin R&B and hip hop in the front room. This is San Francisco's only 18+ gay dance club. \$10. 9:30pm-2am. 715 Harrison St. (at 3rd St.). 487-6616.

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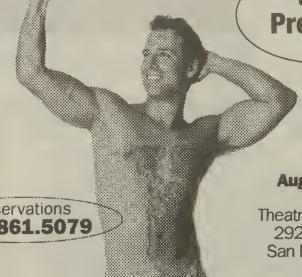
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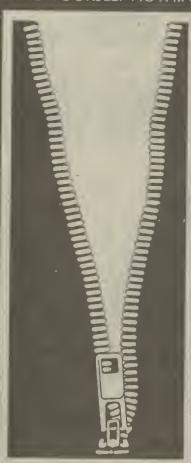
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Extravaganzas here and everywhere

by Mister Marcus

Leather communities from coast to coast delivered class acts last weekend, from Glennon Sutter's "Leather Extravaganza 2000" here in Faghdad by the Bay, to the Men of Discipline's annual Boot Camp weekend run in the Washington, D.C. area, to the Boston Ramrod's Mr. New England Drummer and Drummer Boy contests.

At Leather Extravaganza, Irene Soderberg proved she's a pro as she enhanced the evening's activities with personalized song service at various dinner tables. Her musical renditions seemed to have shifted from just plain vocalist to a hyped-up jazz exponent complete with "scat" intricacies (not to be confused with the sexual practice of our kinkier friends!).

Chef Pic put on an abundant Pacific Rim dinner spread complete with extremely delicate and savory hors d'oeuvres. The South of Market Bare Chest 2001 Calendar men made an appearance, all scantily clad, with exotic flower lei's flown in from Hawaii to enhance their mainly chests as they performed their duties.

Kathleen Antonio and Aimee S. McPherson did not disappoint, and Werner Tillinger (also known as Chief Silver Dome) did a great job emceeing.

This all took place in the home of Don Gallup and Mel Thomas, where of course the decorations were flawless. Leather Extravaganza was a big hit and a big success.

In Boston, the Ramrod was decked out in dazzling chrome and Leather Pride Flags as the regional contest took place, including both Men and Boys. Field reports from my correspondents are sketchy, but while I can't flesh out the details, I can tell you the score: When all the fantasies, speeches, physique displays and interviews



Mr. Edge Leather Bob Miller, right, offered some exotic Pacific Rim fruit to Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear at "Leather Extravaganza 2000" last Friday, August 18.

were over, Daniel Rabone emerged as Mr. New England Drummer 2000, with Kevin Hargrave chosen as New England Drummer Boy 2000.

The weekend before, the Mr. Southwest Drummer and Drummer Boy contests were held at the Padlock Bar in Phoenix, Arizona. Int'l. Mr. Drummer Fraser Picard emcee'd the star-studded event (he eluded his US Air flight attendant this time around). Again details are sketchy, but know that Kyeth Fitzgerald, formerly of the Washington, D.C. area, won the SW Drummer title. His Drummer Boy is Richard Black. "Ky," as Fitzgerald is known to many, was the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer Man a couple of years ago, and also Mr. Baltimore Eagle Leather. Obviously he loves to compete.

Odds & ends

The big rush of gays to Vermont to enhance their social standing with a domestic partner has not been limited to non-

leather people. A few weeks ago, the noted leather/SM/kink writer and videographer, Jack Fritscher and his squeeze, Mark Henry, tied the knot in Guilford, Vermont on July 1 at the hands of Justice of the Peace Anne Rider. Congratulations to them!

And speaking of Vermont, Jerry Acosta, who was American Leather Boy 1999, has tossed his biker cap into the ring for a seat in the Vermont State Senate.

And after all these years, The 15 Association, one of the oldest SM organizations in the country, just made a debut with their new monthly newsletter. It's called, "The Inquisition" and Al P. is the editor. You can tell Al P. is a member of the "old guard" leather school. Not since the late '60s have personalities preferred their first name(s) and last name initial being used in news items.

At a recent leather contest back East, a contestant asked by one of the judges to pick an object in the room and "relate" to it quipped: "I relate to the Gay Pride flag because at one time or another, my hair has been *all* of those colors!"

page 45 ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, August 24-26

Across the SF Bay in Hayward, the Alameda Leather Corps stages "Heat," with the Mr. and Ms. Alameda Co. Leather contests on Saturday night. Free admission at the Rainbow Room on Friday; competition on Saturday at Hill & Valley Club with Lenny Broberg and Crickett Watkins emceeing, followed by a victory party at the Rainbow Room. Thanks to Jean and Mark for a good year with the titles.

In Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, that hunk Jon Worthington steps down as Mr. Double L Leather 99 with a weekend long festival. The contest is on Saturday night. It's been a great year with a hot man!

In Los Angeles, it's the Sunset Junction street fair in the Silver Lake District, with leather galore. It's L.A.'s answer to Folsom Street Fair, and always a great time in the Southland.

Saturday, August 26

The 15 Association's monthly play party at the 14th Street playground. \$10 donation gets you in with the usual amenities provided but you can BYOB. Guests must arrive with you!

Sunday, August 27

GDI's beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800 for \$8 and the Ms. GDI drag contest. Will that dude from Positive Resources show up in high heels and expect to win the title?

Daddy's Boys of SF present "Carnival Games" at Daddy's Bar to benefit PAWS from 1600-2000.

Daddy Mike Floyd will be the ring master and that scamp, Solomon Rose, will warble for you!

Weekend, September 1-3

It's Labor Day Weekend and that means the Satyr's MC put on their 39th annual weekend run to Badger Flat in So. Cal., while across the continent, The Centaurs MC start their annual Olympia XVI run in the wilds of Oxford, Pennsylvania.

In New Orleans, it's the "Southern Decadence" weekend. I'll be there the help judge the Mr. Louisiana Leather 2000 contest, so you'll get the results pronto!

Sunday, September 3

The 18th Annual SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest takes place at the Eagle, with a beer/soda bust from 1500-1800, plus lots of surprises. Thanks Lance Brittain for a super year with the title.

Across the SF Bay, the ACLC presents "Leather & Lace" at the Rainbow Room.

Weekend, September 8-10

Long overshadowed by New York City, the leather community of nearby New Jersey hosts its first New Jersey Leather Pride weekend in Asbury Park, NJ with their Mr. New Jersey Leather contest emceed by Queen Cougar. It's called "A Fire Storm Dance," and it all takes place at the Berkeley Carteret Ocean Front Hotel. For info, call (732) 999-1780 or click on: www.homeatt.net/~prometheanguard.

POLKSTRASSE

McNight to remember

by Sweet Lips

San Francisco's very own cabaret star, Sharon McNight, brings her fabulous "red-hot mama" show, *The Sophie Tucker Songbook*, to the newly refurbished Plush Room in the York Hotel. McNight's homage to the great vaudevillian runs for six performances only, Sept. 5-10, prior to going to New York City. Call 885-2800 for reservations.

Sharon has also been invited to sing the national anthem at Pec Ball Park — sorry, that's Pac Bell Park — for the Giants' home game on Labor Day.

Happy birthday to Tish Crabb, who celebrates her birthday today, August 24, with a big beach party at the Club Rendezvous, 7 p.m. An open show is hosted by Grand Duchess 24 Tiger Lily; seafood and b'day crabcakes will be served.

The next Thursday night, August 31, a candidate for Grand Duchess, Miss Angelina Josephina Manicotti — you have to say that with an Italian accent and your hands in the air — will be hosting a cocktail party at the Club R-V. Our reigning Empress Suzie Wong will be hosting an open show along with the vivacious Kristy Cruise, starting at 7 p.m. Get out your high heels and work that staircase!

Art Angel, formerly of the Swallow, is now on the plank at the Cinch Saloon, Mon.-Thurs., 4-7 p.m. Cinches Woody and Weenie have become domestic partners after 9 years: congrats, guys.

Pennies on Pine

Don't forget the 10th Annual Summer Sidewalk Sale presented by the Pine Street Volunteers, this Sat. & Sun., Aug. 26-27, 9:30 a.m.



Cocktail Hour

to 5:30 p.m. on the corner of Pine and Leavenworth. It's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Penny Fund, and Visa cards are welcome! We're talking hundreds of books, CDs, records, furniture, lamps, china, kitchen items, more! For donations/information, call David, 775-9145. Or just bring your donations the day of the sale. No clothes, only leather items. Volunteers needed for set-up and sales. All the money raised goes to help clients in need.

Sweet Lips sends Hollywood kisses out to: Bartender George of the Twin Peaks; bartender Marlow of Uncle Bert's; and the handsome manager Kevin of Harvey's, all in the Castro, and they always make you feel welcome.

Ending on a butch note: Club Rendez-Vous will be showing the last of the pre-season football games when the Niners take on the Denver Broncos on Friday, Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. The first regular season game opens with a big party at the R-V on Sun., Sept. 3 at 10 a.m. There's a giant-screen TV, beer busts and great prizes, so come on down to cheer on a brand-new 49er team. ▼



"A job well done!" were the words that went with this kiss from Kevin Middleton (right) to his other half, Glennon Sutter, producer of Leather Extravaganza 2000 last Friday, August 18.

a teenager, and the world has come a long way since then. In lots of ways, but particularly in how certain subjects are dealt with in movies. It just wouldn't have happened when I was a kid. Attitudes. What I mean is, it sounds like everything is getting better in spite of complaints. It does feel like the world is getting more tolerant, don't you think?

I nodded and then asked if he owned a copy of "Girls Just Want To Have Fun."

Luckily, Cyndi had already left

the room when Walken responded, "What's that?"

After I sang a few bars, Walken looked more puzzled.

Which makes this the perfect spot to close with a Cyndi Lauper quote: "You always have to remember — no matter what you're told — that God loves all the flowers, even the wild ones that grow on the side of the highway." ▼

The Opportunists opens Friday, August 25 in the Bay Area.

Opportunists

◀ page 39

which he portrays a sadistic, bisexual eccentric who's fatally obsessed with Rupert Everett's beauty. A film like that would never have been made a decade earlier, I note. So what did the Oscar-winning star think of the way Hollywood is currently handling gays and other minorities in film?

"I can remember the '50s very clearly," Walken responded. "I was

Luckily, Cyndi had already left

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PARTING GLANCES

Joel P. French Canadian Mom
Miss you. Parisian angel network. ☎ 72181

MSA Early Mornings
"Morning," You bearded, great eyes, beautiful smile. Like to know you better. Dinner? MCG ☎ 72182

Scott-Lone Star-July 2nd
We met & spoke briefly. Wanted to connect, but got busy with friends. Would love to get further for fireworks or? Frank. ☎ 72183

Whole Foods Deli, Mon 7/24 4:45
You: grey top, khakis. Me: blue sportcoat, tan shirt. Your smile captured my imagination. Too stunned, I barely "smiled" back. Can do much better. Would love to meet you. ☎ 72230

Bagdad Cafe You Eating Alone?
7/20 11:30pm. I had dark hair sitting across from you. To say I smile until I left. You tan boots, left in jeep. "Dessert?" ☎ 72202

Sun 7/20 11:00 Mun/West Portal
You- cutey yellow shirt, handkerchief around neck, glasses, shorts, writing on pad. Me- Asian, older couldn't stop staring. "Let's talk!" ☎ 72203

Dave, Sun 7/23 Tower Records...
You helped me find Linda Eder in vocals. You bought mamma cass. We talked and you liked my accent. I'd love to go further. Date? Please call! ☎ 72204

Rincon Center Thurs Aug 3
You. We met in the elevator and met again by the post office. You took my hand. Waited for you at 6:15. Still hoping. Michael. ☎ 72256

N. We Met On July 30 White
Sitting outdoors of a bar on 18th Street. I regret not to have exchanged telephone numbers. Please call me. ☎ 72229

Badlands Sat Nite 7/29
Your short blonde hair, beautiful smile in green v-neck t-shirt with black/white trim. Me: Asian, short hair in white denim doll t-shirt. Should have said hello. Too shy. Meet for coffee? ☎ 72231

Tues. 7/18-Bart/Fremont;
You: tall blond/thinning, blue eyes, green, white. Me: jacket, tie, braided/thinning, green eyes. Both boarded Civic Ctr, you waved, exited Coliseum. I smiled. Coffee? Movie? ☎ 72232

Sexy Asian Feet In The Park
Months ago I ticked mud from your toes while you jacked off. I would love to lick your feet again. ☎ 72290

Richmond Bart 8-5 Afternoon
You: shaved head, goatee?, tall, converse sneakers. Me: Asian, shaved head, tattoo. Made eye contact across car. I left @ Ashby; we smiled at each other thru window. Let's talk. Coffee? ☎ 72257

Andy, Lush Lounge Sat 7/29
Your great smile and smoldering looks caught me off guard and left me speechless. I would love a second chance to ask for your number. Coffee, dinner, talk? Gene. ☎ 72258

David And Garth-San Gregorio Beach
This is David and Garth from Utah. We met Friday 7/28. Had a great time- would like to keep in touch. Please call if interested. ☎ 72259

White Electric Van Blond Goatee
Fri 8/11 at 1pm Diamond Hts Blvd, Village Square Apt. You: in overall, asked if I wanted ride downtown. Me: sitting on low wall, blue shirt, blue tennis shoes, said a friend was picking me up. ☎ 72291

Kabuki Spa Thurs 8-10 6pm
You (GWM) were coming while I (GAM) was leaving. Shared mutual smiles. You said I was a "good looking guy"; I replied "aw shucks." I'd like to buy you a drink. ☎ 72292

Costco Elevator Aug 3rd
I held door open for you. You: tall, handsome blond. In next line over. Noticed tattoo on rt leg. Smiled as we were leaving. Me: green shirt, and pants, with boss. Wish I could of done more than smile! Dinner? ☎ 72293

Cheeked Out At The Check Out
Costco check out. You: tall, handsome blond. In next line over. Noticed tattoo on rt leg. Smiled as we were leaving. Me: green shirt, and pants, with boss. Wish I could of done more than smile! Dinner? ☎ 72294

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Pisces Want Scorpio Only
GWM, 48, 5'10", 165lbs, uncut bottom bald virgin (Pisces), seeks GWM Scorpio 30-50y/o. Will do all for you! ☎ 72184

GAM 48 Seeks GWM 55 Or
Over. Prefer non smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 72185

Mature Magic In The East Bay
Mature GWM in Oakland, 5'9", 155, HIV-, looking for GWM, GAM, GLM, 40 to 60ys+, in good health, and good shape- for good times, safe sex and solid relationship. ☎ 72186

GWM ISO GHM Sweetheart~
Who's affectionate, warm & humorous. HIV-, 32-46, enjoys outdoors, movies, dining out, kissing & cuddling. Me: GWM, HIV-, young 42, 5'9", 175lbs, bm/blue. ☎ 72207

Travis Where Are You?
I've been four years. I need to see you. Last time I saw you, you were bald and working at a cafe @ Height and Masonic. P.S. Black male! Remember? ☎ 72238

Single, San, Sober, Sensuous...
GWM, 40, 5'11", 175lbs, fit, sincere, affectionate, versatile dad. ISO masc/masc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "triple work", verbal, light skin, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on east coast, visiting S.F. Oct. Nude photo required, butt photo get mine. I am HIV-. Pozok! ☎ 72239

GAM Top 4 GWM
GAM seeks mature GWM; HIV-/n/d; healthy w/hi proportionate for a friend/more. Slim & golfer a plus but not mandatory. ☎ 72260

Aggressive Asian Men
GWM wishes to meet and establish a long time love relationship with Asian men. Let's hold, touch & kiss each other. I love to suck a long time. ☎ 72261

ISO Under 5'10"
SF professional GWM, blond, balding, very fit 43, 5'9", 155, HIV-(ub2), sees vers. or top. I'm masculine, honest, stable, social drinker with a dry humor. Prefer shorter/fit. ☎ 72296

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY AT 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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Big Man For You

Attractive, top, GWM, 50, 350lbs. You: attractive G (White, Asian, Latin), slim. My arms hold what the world lacks. Hugs & kisses come first. ☎ 72262

Slave Seeks Master

A rare Master is out there somewhere. Seeking strong connection between Master, service, pain/joy, "spiritually," and trust/connection to wholly leap into capable hands. Slave tall/slim defined, 38. ☎ 72263

Gay Eagle Scout Seeks Soulmate
All American guy, seeks outdoors type man for LTR. 45yo, HIV+, no meds, master. Prepared, reg nurse, serious about please. ☎ 72264

Attractive Fun GWM

40 GWM 6'4" 230 professional. All American- seeks 42-48. San Jose to SF- 5'8" or taller. single, emotionally available sense of humor- romantic- dating- LTR. ☎ 72265

RU HIV+ Masc. Top

Haw/Hip 41 5'5" 152 HIV+ btm w/intransigent appetite smooth affectionate & honest. Seeks masc, top-man w/intransigent appetite in shape or stocky built 30-55 old. For romance to hot nasty times LTR possible. Into cuddling, kissing, massage movies, dinner, rimming. ☎ 72266

Young Handsome Russian
Looking for an intelligent Russian or European under 40yo, to give my body and soul. No disappointment guaranteed! ☎ 72295

Young Handsome Russian

Looking for other intelligent Russians or Europeans under 40yo, to give my body and soul. No disappointment guaranteed! ☎ 72215

Lets Make A Home

Passionate, intense top looking for life partner. 5'10", 147#, 32yrs, olive skinned professional. Seeks man 38+, mature, stable for monogamous LTR. Not into bars. NS/ND. ☎ 72297

SEEKING ADVENTURE

I'm Looking To Keep Up My
Language practice. Intense French Romantic. GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Charming, wild, magical. Not into "tricky French games". How can we meet? ☎ 72187

ISO Large Men

Very Sexy 70ys needs heavyweights over 250# for hot sex. I'm 6'165# 6 1/2" uncult bald, bearded into any scene. Aroma a plus. ☎ 72188

Oral Excellence

Friendly 4yer has opening for 1-2 good men for cock service. Hot mouth, deep throat soothe aching balls, restore serenly! Big cock essential, in shape, facial hair A+. ☎ 72189

Tough Guys Wanted To Rumble

Skinheads, leatherheads, wrestlers, boxers, fight clubbers wanted by 5'8", 140# hairy muscular skinhead for barefisted no-rules, fights for top private SF ring. Dukes up and ready, man! ☎ 72190

Palo Alto GAM 42-5'11" 185

Has two holes, needs cock for drilling & filling take you pick, no reciprocation. Up 36yo to 49. ☎ 72191

Black And White XXX Fun & Sex
SWM 47, 5'11" 175 masculine goodlooking with a big thick tool seeks kinky Black men for j/o videos, buttplay, nude beaches and baths. Me HIV+ versatile bottom. Palo Alto. ☎ 72192

ISO Ass Or Ball Specialist

I am 5'2", 120 HIV- 58y. Very clear- need someone experience in ass play/fc, expert with ball abuse. You be willing to come to Sacramento, stay at my place if you like, I love sucking cock. Seriously only. ☎ 72193

23yr. Blond/Brown Smooth White
Male, very fun to be with, enjoyable relaxing time, looking for adventure. ☎ 72194

Black On Top, Brown On Bottom
Penetrating Black top man, 46, seeks a masculine, mature Hispanic male who enjoys receiving a hot back door pounding. Chunky build, dark hair and mustache A+. "Serious!!" ☎ 72216

I Need To Lick Boots!

Older guy seeks hunks into this scene, will lick, polish, even clean heel & sole with my tongue. Transport me to ecstasy. ☎ 72217

Scorpio Boy Handsome Athletic
Me: 35, 5'11", 175# bm hair & eyes cleaned shaved, smooth chest, kissing & touching. Very important. You be 40-45 good shape hairyches A+. No smokers or drug HIV+ myself, you be too! ☎ 72218

Hey Nipple Fans!

You'll like mine. Fleshy with standup centers. This senior likes them twisted, sucked etc. What are yours like? Mutual cocksucking too! ☎ 72219

Thick Tool
GWM, 5'7", loves chewing nipples and giving lots of rim. Mornings or early afternoon. Older a big plus. ☎ 72220

Son Seeks Submissive Dad
W/M 44, masculine, hairy top, seeks older businessmen, masculine, in-shape, deep throat-into spanking dad, role playing A+. ☎ 72221

Daddy Seeks Son
Very discreet clean and classy 50y.o. man desires the company of a cute intelligent young cub for fun, frolic and more. ☎ 72222

White Guy Seeks Hung Men
35, WGM, 40, 6ft, 185, and goodlooking, seeks hot well hung men for oral, and more. All nationalities are welcome. No one over 40 please. ☎ 72240

Two Become One
35, WGM, HIV+ - great humor, love outdoors, love the beach, love great old movies, seeks someone with same interest, 40-50, HIV+ into the same. Bottom. ☎ 72241

One-Wild Fuck
WM 35 5'10", 195lb blond/blue ver-satule muscle man, likes to get wild all nite long. Call anyday-anytime. Also love to get massaged. ☎ 72242

Good Problem To Have
I fuck my all buddies, it must be the tall-dark-handsome thing. I want a guy (couples are fun too), to fuck me. I'm 45, HIV- safe sex only. Call, describe yourself. ☎ 72243

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-, White, 6', 160#/.40s. Porn tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 72244

Magic Hands
I give long slow intense erotic massages to formal training, but I have the intuitive touch. Bi's, straights, very discreet, versatile, and safe. No reciprocation required. ☎ 72245

How Blunt Can I Be?
I need my vintage Black Oakland tool sucked 2-3x weekly by an experienced expert. Please no beginners, beards/goatees, indirect phone numbers. ☎ 72246

Hey! Wanna Wrestle?
Fit, 6'2", 175lb, 40y.o. GWM wants to wrestle fit, playful guys for fun, submission, and/or pins. Trunks/tee, Speedos, nude. Your fantasies welcome. Maybe winner decides loser's "punishment"? ☎ 72247

Get Naked And Jack Off
Well hung exhibitionist wants to stroke tool with other naked men. Indoors or outdoors. Strip down, pose and show off, big hard cocks, Group scenes and dares get bigger erections! ☎ 72248

Virile Encounters
Sought by GWM (out of town), 60, 6'2" bearded bear with Bay Area men over 6' during monthly overnight visits: maybe dinner and a show. ☎ 72249

Seeking Hot Hung Thick Top
Sophisticated bottom visiting SF in August. Looking to have a good time, 5'8", 130lbs. Hazel/grey, brown hair, 40yrs old. Well hung a plus. ☎ 72250

Hoods & Skimasks
Blue collar skinhead, 28, tattoos gives hot blow jobs wearing ski masks, hoods, beanies, derby jackets. Have ski mask collection; dig chokes. Tops. Santa Clara. ☎ 72251

Spank Me
Cute frat boy 24 needs lover the knee action from a dominant jock brother. China town SF. ☎ 72268

Generous Handsome Professional
Generous in-shape Asian professional 40 seeks goodlooking in-shape HIV-bottom or versatile guy with class for regular companionship. ☎ 72269

Spanking And Affection
GWM, 49, 5'10", 170, bearded, hairy seeks attractive men, under 50, prefer hairy into hot, sensual, give and take bare bottom spanking along with kissing, cuddling + J/o. ☎ 72270

GAM Seeks Ongoing Sex Partner
Who enjoys cock worship. GWM mature. Versatile; HIV-; n/s/d; slender/slim bottom a plus. Pos LTR. ☎ 72271

Blow Job Service
50y old, 5'8", 150#, goodlooking, HIV-, moustache, clean cut, excellent cock sucker, seeks GWM, HIV- with hairy body, moustache, goatee or beard on regular basis. ☎ 72272

Bik Guy Sks Top Dom Aggressive + Raunchy, kink, sleaze + eve + some wks ends. ☎ 72195

Shut Up And Ride
35, WM, 5'10", 195lb, blond-blue, muscular, versatile guy wants good-looking masculine men to fuck with my nite long. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 72274

Black On Black
I want a black man 29 to 55 for fun and more. Let me take out wine and dine you. I am 45, 6'1", 165#. I like 8" to 10" of tool on you. ☎ 72275

Bicurious
WM, 6'/180/42, gym body, divorced Irish-Italian, nice package, looking to serve WM, smooth and hung. HIV negub2. Let's do it! ☎ 72276

Dominant Black Men Who Enjoy
Using their submissive White fuck toy cock sucker for their personal enjoyment GWM 5'8", 155 hairy and very obedient for you. ☎ 72277

Rape Fantasy: Make Me Take
Your hard thick, u/c meat between my kissable lips, nice, hairy scobs. Non-freak, regular, naturally handsome 5'11", 155#, 30's athletic, nice. You: Sane, dark(?), playful in-shape-ish. ☎ 72278

Black Top Wanted
Attractive GBM straight acting, but very submissive, seeking Black tops to orally service and be dominated by. Prefer clean, well built men who can take control. ☎ 72279

Straight Has 3 Part Fantasy
Masculine smaller than normal sized Asian to fuck my face and virgin as finishing by jacking off on my face. Safe sex practice during ass play. ☎ 72298

I SO Top For Weekday Romp!
Versatile cub, 30, 5'6", 169#, trim stache, furry tummy & butt. ISO top or versatile WM 25-45 for ongoing afterwork romp. Couples encouraged, facial hair a plus. ☎ 72300

Nympho Asian/American Bottom
Blacks hung thick wanted, 3 to do me at one time. HIV- bottom, likes ff, toys all but pain. Hot!!! SF Bay Area 40's late 30's. ☎ 72301

Hot Italian Sks Big Cock
Hot & horny Italian bottom, 45, 6', seeks studs 18-40 for the best oral sex and ass eating you've ever had! ☎ 72302

Cute Guy w/Boy Body Loves Butt Play
Sexy, masc, young 40's, brown hair, stache, goatee, 5'7", 145# well proportioned, very nice butt, positive attitude, sincere, free spirited looking to hook up and have fun! You: masc, 30-45, 5'8"+. ☎ 72303

Buttfucker Wanted
ISO top, 35 & under, GWM, masc, 6'1", Me: submissive bottom, GAM, 5'9", 160, 35, gulg, straight acting, into tt, dildos. ☎ 72304

Discipline
Dad 60, wants subs for on going training, Discipline and service. ☎ 72198

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 72287

Seeking Nipple Workout Buddy
45yr old, 190lb nipple pig brn, brn, s&p goatee, lat's, piercings, smoker. Looking for dominant muscular & masculine nipple pig buddy for heavy nipple workouts. Studs who smoke +++++ Call!!!! ☎ 72196

Instructor Needed
To teach slim, mid-aged, 5'8", beard, moustache, balding daddy type how to overcome the gag reflex. (Optional Teeth). Want to be able to take on the big ones. ☎ 72195

Horse Hung Guy Seeks Others
Very goodlooking BM, 30, 5'11", clean-cut/shaven, muscular 190lbs., hung 10", seeks horse hung guy, any age/weight/age for hot fun! All answered. ☎ 72225

Daddy Wanted For A Diaper Boy
I am 38, 6', 195 brown hair, hazel eyes into being spanked, spanked and threatened like your son. Ltr preferred. You over 45. ☎ 72227

I'm A 2nd Slave
And don't come. Am 57 & healthy. You order me to prepare buddy's hole, drink ws, + watch you screw. I clean you & him, then leave. # ☎ 72282

Two Heads Are Better Than One
B/W/M in Oakland, HIV+, open and discreet, seeks singles or couples for oral pleasures. Shaved a plus. ☎ 72280

FF Bottom Wanted
50's GWM, HIV-, with big hands and wrists seeks GWM, HIV-, with accommodating hole for exploring and pleasure. Aroma/herbs ok. ☎ 72252

Mutual Spanking
W/M 60, seeks others into mutual spanking scenes in Castro. No pushy bottoms please. ☎ 72253

Seeking Big Tool With Big Load
Masculine mostly straight WM 58 wants to watch you stroke your throbbing cock. See, feel your hot cum splatter my face then wash it clean with nature's golden nectar. ☎ 72254

I'll Serve You Deeply
Handsome, sexy, professionals, w/office or quiet res/room in area during or after business hours. Masculine, clean, discreet. ☎ 72286

Full Service Toilet Slave
Needed. Must be obedient, hungry, and thirsty. May train nasty-minded novices. Prefer young and clean cut, (like me) but not mandatory orders may be enforced with belt or paddle. ☎ 72297

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You: muscular, gym toned, prefer nicely. No strings. I want to give you a bubble bath with no strings. But if it happens, fine. ☎ 72281

Enamamate Desired
40's bi DWM, trim, clean, HIV-, sincere sensual, discreet seeks exploring all facets. ☎ 72285

Erotic Rope Bondage
Bondage top, GWM, 42, 5'8", 155, goodlooking, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape submissive bottom, 21-45, for erotic bondage, gags, toys, discipline, light sm negotiable. Safe, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. ☎ 72283

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Desired for occasional sucking by good looking young, hung, WM. I dream of being on my knees for your beautiful, hard, Black, meat. I'll be your slave. Squirt on me. ☎ 72226

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Older attractive WM, needs hungry mouth to bring on many turn-ons from big balls, regularly. ☎ 72201

Circuit Bay Sex Party
Are you defined, buff, muscle jock who enjoys having sex in a comfortable environment with other hot muscle studs? If this ad peaks your curiosity, then gives us a call. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 72228

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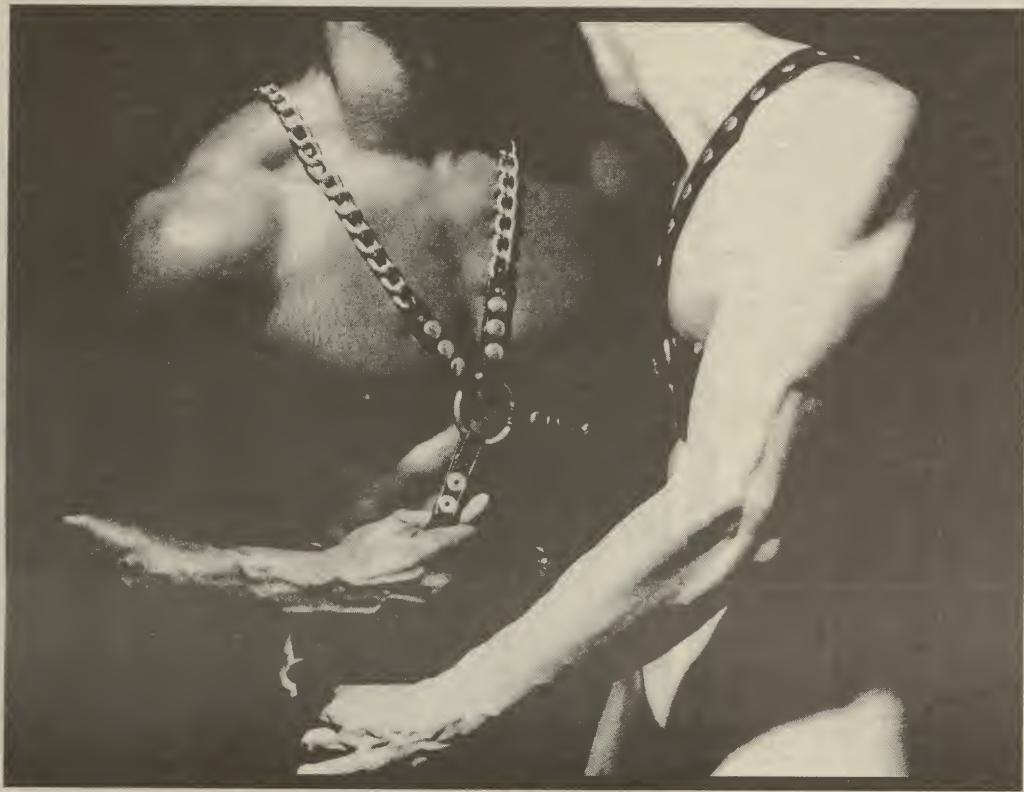
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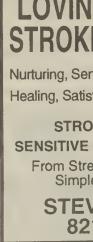
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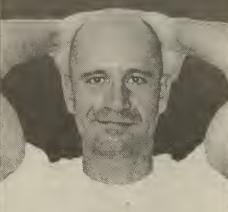
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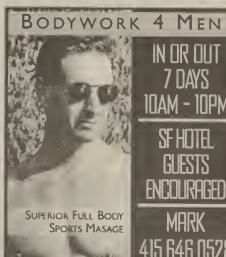
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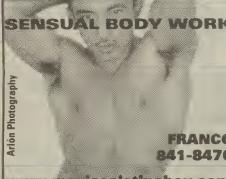


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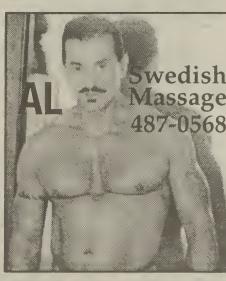
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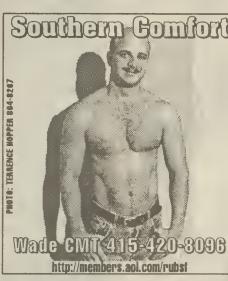
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Feet back and spread 'em!

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LUTHER BURBANK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Highway 101 North to River Road • Santa Rosa

Spend a weekend in the Wine Country!



*Sandra
Bernhard*

September 1

*Loretta
Lynn*

September 14

*Suzanne
Westenhoefer
& Bob Smith*

October 20

LBC and We Mean It! Productions present Fall Lesbian and Gay Comedy Night with

*ASL Interpreted
More info: wemeanit.com*



*sandra
bernhard*
september 1



los lobos
september 5



*an evening in
ireland with
eileen ivers
and lunasa*
september 8



*loretta
lynn*
september 14



*deepak
chopra*
september 20



kenny g
september 25



*keiko
matsui*
september 30



*sf comedy
competition*
october 6



*gran ballet
folklorico
de mexico*
october 7



*dar
williams*
october 10



jewel
*on sale
sept. 8*
november 18



*harvey korman
& tim conway
together again*
february 17



*sf western
opera
theatre's
die
fledermaus*
october 4



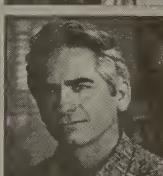
*bulgarian
women's
choir*
october 13



*marcel
marceau*
october 19



*unforgettable:
the nat king
cole story*
october 22



*david benoit:
50 years of
charlie brown,
a tribute to
charles
m. schulz*
november 10



*nadja salerno-
sonnenberg
with sergio and
odair assad*
march 15



*roscoe lee browne &
anthony zerbe in
behind the
broken words*
april 6



*actors' theatre
2000/2001 season*
*santa rosa symphony
2000/2001 season*

Spend a weekend on the Russian River!

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ARTREACH:
LBC's ticket program for limited
income families. Call: 546-3600

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